

to adore his Godhead, and to offer myrrh is to acknowledge his mortality" (Saint Odilo of Cluny). Creation responds as well: "When the king of heaven was born, the heavens knew that he was God because they immediately sent forth a star; the sea knew him because it allowed him to walk upon it; the earth knew him because it trembled when he died; the sun knew him because it hid the rays of its light" (Saint Gregory the Great). The manifestation of the Son of God to the world invites us to trust in him who will lead us home by another way.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Mt 3:1; 1 Ch 29:12
Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

GLORIA ————— page 215

COLLECT

O God, who on this day
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star,
grant in your mercy
that we, who know you already by faith,
may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime
glory.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

• Above you the glory of the Lord appears. •

A reading from
the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

60:1-6

ARISE, SHINE OUT, Jerusalem,
for your light has come, the
glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still
covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you
the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The
nations come to your light and kings to your dawning

brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are
assembling and coming towards you, your sons from
far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart
throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow
to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in
thongs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and
Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold
and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

—• PSALM 71 •—

R. (cf. 11) All nations shall fall prostrate before you,
O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. *R.*

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. *R.*

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. *R.*

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. *R.*

● *It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.* ●

A reading from
the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

YOU HAVE PROBABLY heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel. *The word of the Lord.*

Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!

● *We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.* ●

A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12

AFTER JESUS HAD been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. "Where is the infant king of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. "At Bethlehem in Judaea," they told him, "for this is what the prophet wrote: *And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no*

means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. "Go and find out all about the child," he said, "and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage." Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, Lord, we pray,
on these gifts of your Church,
in which are offered now not gold or frankincense
or myrrh,
but he who by them is proclaimed,
sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

PREFACE OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD:
CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE NATIONS

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For today you have revealed the mystery
of our salvation in Christ

• *Here is my servant in whom my soul delights.* •

A reading from
the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

42:1-4, 6-7

THUS SAYS THE LORD: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

Or:

• *God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit.* •

A reading from
the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-38

PETER ADDRESSED Cornelius and his household: "The truth I have now come to realise," he said, "is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that *the good news of peace was brought* by Jesus Christ—but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent

happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. *God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.*

The word of the Lord.

— • PSALM 28 • —

℟ (11b) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.

Adore the Lord in his holy court. ℞

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. ℞

The God of glory thunders.

In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. ℞

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Alleluia!

• *As soon as Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him.* •

A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Matthew

3:13-17

JESUS CAME FROM Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by

John. John tried to dissuade him. "It is I who need baptism from you", he said, "and yet you come to me!" But Jesus replied, "Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands." At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him."
The Gospel of the Lord.

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PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the offerings
we have brought to honour the revealing
of your beloved Son,
so that the oblation of your faithful
may be transformed into the sacrifice of him
who willed in his compassion
to wash away the sins of the world.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

PREFACE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For in the waters of the Jordan
you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism,
so that through the voice that came down from heaven
we might come to believe in your Word dwelling
among us,
and by the Spirit's descending in the likeness of a dove
we might know that Christ your Servant
has been anointed with the oil of gladness
and sent to bring the good news to the poor.

And so, with the Powers of heaven,
we worship you constantly on earth,
and before your majesty
without end we acclaim: Holy....

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 1:32, 34
Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified
that this is the Son of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,
that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son,
we may be your children in name and in truth.
Through Christ our Lord.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

The Glories of Baptism

The more we contemplate in the light of faith the great gifts of baptism, the more we are astounded by the munificence of God's bounty. Moreover, it would be a mistake to regard the effects of this initial grace as passing phenomena. The Trinity of baptism is with us all the days of our life. The Father is always present, providentially watching day and night over his adopted children. The Word is always present, keeping them from all evil. The Holy Spirit is always present, guiding them through the cares and hardships of this life, toward their eternal destiny. All three divine Persons of the Trinity unceasingly watch over us with their all-powerful protection.

Here, in the indwelling of the Blessed Trinity, lies a truth that ought never to be overlooked. Perhaps we are too much accustomed to weighing only the personal efforts of the soul in the quest for perfection. Such personal effort is certainly necessary, but we should not

Jesus Christ". By professing the One "that takes away the sin of the world", we become a light to the nations through whom God's salvation reaches to the ends of the earth. God shows his glory through us, as we glorify the Lamb of God.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON.

Ps 65:4
All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

GLORIA ————— page 215

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

• *I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.* •

A reading from
the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

49:3, 5-6

THE LORD SAID to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified"; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

"It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

The word of the Lord.

—• PSALM 39 —•

℟/ (8a and 9a) Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. ℟

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. ℟

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. ℟

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. ℟

• *May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.* •

A reading from the beginning of the first
Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

1:1-3

I, PAUL, APPOINTED by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their

Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!

• *Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.* •

A reading from
the holy Gospel according to John 1:29-34

SEEBING JESUS COMING towards him, John said, "Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water." John also declared, "I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit.' Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God." *The Gospel of the Lord.*

CREDO ————— page 217

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that we may participate worthily in these mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.

PREFACE OF SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME ——— page 222

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 22:5
You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Or: I Jn 4:16
We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,
and in your kindness
make those you have nourished
by this one heavenly Bread
one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

"He is the Chosen One"

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in whom lies all our hope of eternal salvation, though he was God became man for this reason, that man, having put himself far away from God, should not think he had been left far off and deserted. So he became our mediator, and thus after a fashion brought to an end the time of the distance which separated us from God, so that through him we might not remain far off, but could even draw near.

Nothing, you see, is so closely joined together as the Word and God; again, nothing is so closely joined together as flesh and humanity. So, since the Word and God were a long way away from flesh and humanity, the Word became flesh, and joined humanity to God. So this Lord and Saviour of ours, the Son of God, the Word of God who became flesh, taught those who believe in him how to live towards God.

cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord make his paths straight.

I am the one who reprovés and disciplines all those he loves: so repent in real earnest.

(Rv 3:19)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

(Text, back cover B)

Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God unrivalled. (Is 45:22)

INTERCESSIONS

We seek to grow in holiness and turn away from sin. So we pray:

℟ Bring us to repentance.

When we have strayed from the path of righteousness: ℟

When we are enthralled by what is not of God: ℟

When we become blind to our sins: ℟

Personal intentions

Our Father....

Lord our God, you are loving and merciful to all those who turn to you in humility. Draw us ever deeper in your embrace as we seek to please you through holy lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MASS

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint Paul urges the Corinthians to "be united again in your belief and practice" without any divisions among them. For there is no more irresistible witness to the truth of the Gospel than such unity in charity. No wonder that the first thing Jesus does when

he moves to Capernaum is seek out companions. In the unity that Simon, Andrew, James, and John experience through their friendship with Christ, they become certain that "the kingdom of heaven is close at hand". Thanks to our communion in Christ, "the people that walked in darkness has seen a great light". To us enshrouded in the "land of deep shadow", Jesus Christ beckons: "Follow me."

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 95:1, 6

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

GLORIA

page 215

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,
that in the name of your beloved Son
we may abound in good works.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

• *In Galilee of the nations the people has seen a great light.* •

A reading from

the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

8:23-9:3

IN DAYS PAST the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has 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 Midian.

The word of the Lord.

—• PSALM 26 •—

℟ (1a) The Lord is my light and my help.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? ℟

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. ℟

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! ℟

• *Make up the differences between you instead of disagreeing among yourselves.* •

A reading from the first

Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

I APPEAL TO YOU, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's

people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: "I am for Paul," "I am for Apollos," "I am for Cephas," "I am for Christ." Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom and cured all kinds of sickness among the people. Alleluia!

• *He went and settled in Capernaum: in this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled.* •

A reading from

the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:12-23

[For the shorter form (4:12-17), omit the text in brackets.]

HEARING THAT JOHN had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

[As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.]

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.]

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREDO ————— page 217

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray,
and in sanctifying them
grant that they may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE OF SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME ————— page 222

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Or: Jn 8:12
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, receiving the grace
by which you bring us to new life,
we may always glory in your gift.
Through Christ our Lord.

• MEDITATION OF THE DAY •

The Kingdom Is a Person

To show his debt of gratitude to the Baptist and his strict continuity with him, Jesus chooses as the first words of his public life the phrase that sums up verbatim the essence of the Forerunner's preaching: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand*. But now the word of preparation becomes the word of fulfilment. John's message has faithfully been transitive, because he pointed beyond himself to Jesus: "The Kingdom of Heaven has come near...and there you see it approaching in the form of Jesus of Nazareth." When Jesus himself repeats the same words, however, he speaks them as the Light that has dawned over every people, every individual squatting helplessly in the darkness. Jesus' words are the auditory component of the real fact that the Son of God is living among men. Verse 13 says literally "he *made his home* in Capharnaum". By so doing, the Son of God has reopened the gates of paradise for those who would drink of that light, that water of eternal life.

Christ Jesus among us is the walking Kingdom of Heaven. The angels who came to serve him after the temptations knew as much: they had no need of *metanoia*. "Repentance" means, not only to forsake our old sinful ways, since this would be a merely moral change: repentance means to put on a new attitude *because*