The Priest invites all to join in the Lord's Prayer:

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;
but lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

The Priest continues alone:
Deliver us, Lord, 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.

For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

The Priest says:
Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

The Deacon, or the Priest, adds:
Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
The Priest greets the people, saying:
Through Christ our Lord.

And with your spirit.

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Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
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Penitential Act

The Priest invites the faithful to repentance
Penitential Acts:

Lord, have mercy.

The people reply:
And with your spirit.

The Mass of the day may be introduced.

Penitential Act

The Priest invites the faithful to repentance
Penitential Acts:

Lord, have mercy.

The people reply:
And with your spirit.

The Father to intercede for us:

The Collect

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
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.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Glorify him.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.
Grant him.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.
Receive him.

Thanks be to God.

The Communion Rite

Stand

The Priest or other minister says to each communicant:
Each communicant answers: Amen.

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Communion Antiphon

Cf. Is 35:4
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

After the distribution of Holy Communion

A sacred silence may be observed or a psalm, hymn or canticle of praise may be sung.

Prayer after Communion

We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Announcements may be made.

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Lord, have mercy.

The people reply:
And with your spirit.

The Mass of the day may be introduced.

Penitential Act

The Priest invites the faithful to repentance
Penitential Acts:

Lord, have mercy.

The people reply:
And with your spirit.

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Or:
Have mercy on us, O Lord.
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant us your salvation.

Or:
You were sent to heal the contrite heart:
Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison.
Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison.

You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy. Or: Christe, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison.
Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison.

The absolution by the Priest follows.
The people reply:
Amen.

If the ‘Kyrie, eleison’ has not been said or sung,
it is said or sung now.

The Collect

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
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.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

61:1-2.10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring the news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
and to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

‘I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in garments of salvation,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of all nations.’

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.
Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

R) My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul rejoices in my God. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. The word of the Lord.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. What have you to say about yourself? So he said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord’

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the Prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal- strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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.

I 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 adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Or:

The Apostles’ Creed

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.

The Prayer of the Faithful

Response example: Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

After the concluding prayer all say: Amen. Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The offerings are brought to the altar. A hymn may be sung.

If the Priest says the two prayers of offering aloud the response both times is: Blessed be God for ever.

The Priest completes additional personal preparatory rites, and the people rise as he says: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

The people reply: 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.

Prayer over the Offerings

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. Lift up your hearts. We lift up them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.

The Priest continues with the Preface and concludes with the people, singing or saying aloud: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. 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 Eucharistic Prayer continues until the priest says: The mystery of faith. And the people continue, acclaiming one of the following:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again. Or:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again. Or:

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

The Priest concludes the Eucharistic Prayer saying alone: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever. The people acclaim: Amen.