Amen.

**The Communion Rite**

The Priest or other minister says to each communicant:


Each communicant answers: Amen.

**Communion Antiphon**

Is 7:14

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

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**

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.

**TH E C O N C L U N G E R Y R I T E S**

**Announcements may be made.** Then:

P r i e s t: The Lord be with you. A l l: And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then the Deacon, or the Priest, says:

Go forth, the Mass is ended. Or: Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. Or: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. Or: Go in peace. Thanks be to God.

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

First Reading

A reading from the second book of Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’

But that very night, the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you, I will give you fame as great as the name of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over you. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison.

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

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

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, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sit

**THE INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**Entrance Antiphon**

or a hymn

Stand

Cl. Is 45:8

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

All make the Sign of the Cross as the Priest says: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Greetings

The Priest greets the people, saying: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Or: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Or: The Lord be with you.

The people reply: And with your spirit.

The Mass of the day may be introduced.

Penitential Act

The Priest invites the faithful to repentance, followed, after a brief pause, by one of the Penitential Acts:

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:
my people Israel; and I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ps 88.2-5. 27. 29. R. cf v2

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R)

‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.’ (R)

He will say to me: ‘You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.’ I will keep my love for him always; my God, the rock who saves me.”

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.

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 Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, 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 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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.

The Priest concludes 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.

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.

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

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.