

**All:** God our Father, you have today sent your Son to be the light of the world. We pray that this light may shine in all the corners of the earth where it has not reached, and that we may help carry this light, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Offertory Hymn:** 274 v 1&2      **Offertory Prayers**      **Hymn** 274 v 3-6

**Sanctus:** tune Iris (*Angels from the Realms*)

**Agnus Dei:** tune Rocking

**Hymn at Ablutions:** 143

**Post Communion Prayer and Angelus**

**Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn:** 113

Happy Christmass everyone!

No collections are taken in this church but running costs are high. Please make a donation, using a pink envelope if you are a UK taxpayer and sign it. Then put it into the red box by the door – or use the contactless card machine. Thank you.

The Crib Appeal is for Christian Aid.

Sockbank for homeless in Norwich, cared for by St Martin's Housing Trust. – collecting socks, hats, scarves, gloves & trainers.

Both Appeals close 9 Jan. Please give generously.

Tomorrow: Sunday 26 December – FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

**11.00 am** Parish Mass and Address **\*please note later time\***

Gen.15v.1-6.21v.1-3.

Hebrews11v.8,11-12,17-19.

Luke 2v.22-40.

## CHRISTMASS DAY

**THEME:** 'The Word was made flesh: he lived among us'.

This is the great theme of our Mass today. The Word who had existed from all eternity took flesh and is born in the stable at Bethlehem. Let us pray that the simplicity of the birth of Jesus will change our lives and make us open to the needs of others.

**Entrance Hymn: 235 v 1 Prayer at crib & singing of Happy Birthday, Lord Jesus. Hymn 235 v 2-4**

### **PENITENTIAL RITE**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us, Lord, when we refuse to be reconciled.  
Lord have mercy. **People: LORD HAVE MERCY.**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have preferred darkness.  
Christ have mercy. **People: CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us, Lord, when we try to save ourselves without your help. Lord have mercy. **People: LORD HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

### **GLORIA – to tune 'Infant Holy'**

**OPENING PRAYER:** *Let us pray for the glory promised by the birth of Christ.* Lord God, we praise you for creating man, and still more for restoring him in Christ. Your Son shared our weakness: may we share his glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**1st Reading: Isaiah 52 v 7-10:** This reading is part of a long poem on the deliverance of Jerusalem. It is used in the Christmass liturgy because the coming of Christ heralds the deliverance of all mankind from sin.

*How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, "Your God is king!"*

*Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion.*

*Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem.*

*The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 97

® **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. ®

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. ®

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. ®

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.®

**Second Reading: Hebrews 1 v 1-6:** In the letter to the Hebrews we are told how God reveals himself to man in many ways: in creation; in the Law; in the words of the prophets; and finally and definitively in his Son Jesus. In Jesus we have all that we can know of God. As Jesus manifests the Father to us, so must we manifest him to one another.

*At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.*

*God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.*

**Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia!**

**Gospel Hymn: 30**

**Gospel: John 1 v. 1-18:** John is telling us that the Word of God, who has been with God from all eternity has become Man in the person of Jesus. By accepting him, we become children of his Father and will live for ever.

*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.*

**Creed.** Nicene Creed (Kneel as an act of humility at Incarnatus.)

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**CELEBRANT:** Jesus is Emmanuel: God with us. Let us pray to him for the world in which he came to live.

**READER:** Let us pray for all rulers: that Christ, the Prince of Peace, may direct their minds and hearts to work for justice and peace on earth.

Let us pray for our family celebrations and for all who are working this Christmass, especially in hospitals, care homes and for other key workers, that Christ may give them a taste of that peace which the world cannot give.

Let us pray for prisoners and refugees: that Christ may enlighten their darkness.

Let us pray for our parish and our families who welcome Christ into their lives that we may all learn to welcome him in the poor and suffering of our world. We pray for our crib appeal for Christian Aid.

Let us pray for those people for whom this Christmass period will be one of pain, sickness or loneliness. For all suffering from Covid and all recently bereaved.

Let us pray for those who have not yet seen the light of Christ; for those who cannot recognize and accept the truth.

Let us pray for the dead; for all our departed family and friends and for those commemorated in the American Chantry Book and the Parish Chantry Book and the Guild of All Souls.

Let us ask Mary the Mother of Jesus to join her prayer to ours. **Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

**SILENCE**

**PTO**