

CHRISTMAS

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH—JEBEL ALI

YEAR A, B, C

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Antiphon

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour is born to the world. True peace has descended from heaven.

Entrance Hymn

1. Silent night
holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace! (2)
2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah!
Christ, the Saviour is born. (2)
3. Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth (2).



Greeting

C: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

All: AMEN

C: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Penitential Rite

C: My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our sins.

Pause for silent reflection. After a brief silence all say:

All: I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and 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.

C: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

P: AMEN

The Kyrie

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Christ, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth, Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Father, you make this holy night radiant with the splendour of Jesus Christ our light. We welcome him as Lord, the true light of the world. Bring us to eternal joy in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

9: 1-7

A Son is given to us.

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. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they gave him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he established and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and forever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

Ps 95:1-3, 11-13. R Lk 2:11

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R**
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **R**
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R**



Second Reading

2: 11-14

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Titus.

God's grace has been revealed to the whole human race.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 1:12, 14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

2: 1-14

C: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

C: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Today a saviour has been born to you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and traveled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour".

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come again 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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold Him, born the King of angles
O come, let us adore Him, (3) Christ the Lord.
- 2 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God in the highest:
- 3 God of God, light of light,
lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

The Offering

(If no song is sung, then the people may make the responses to the prayer of offering given here.)

C: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

P: Blessed be God for ever.

C: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

P: Blessed be God for ever.

C: Pray, brethren, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

P: 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 Church.

Prayer over the gifts

Lord, accept our gifts on this joyful feast of our salvation. By our communion with God made man, may we become more like him who joins our lives to yours, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Eucharistic Prayer

C: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

C: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

C: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Acclamation

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, 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.

Memorial Acclamation

C: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Communion Rite

C: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

C: Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Breaking of the Bread

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

C: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

The Word of God became man; we have seen his glory.

Communion Hymn

1. Hark, the herald angels sing glory to the new born King
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the new-born King.

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
risen with healing in His wings;
mild He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

1. The First Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel

Born is the King of Israel x2

2. They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
3. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with His blood mankind hath bought.
1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see Thee lie!
Above Thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in Thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in Thee tonight.
2. O morning stars, together, proclaim the holy birth
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin
where meek souls will receive Him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

Prayer After Communion

God our Father, we rejoice in the birth of our Saviour. May we share his life completely by living as he has taught.

Concluding Rite

C: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

SOLEMN BLESSINGS

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

When he came to us as man, the Son of God scattered the darkness of this world, and filled this holy night (day) with his glory. May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness.

R Amen.

God sent his angels to shepherds to herald the great joy of our Saviour's birth. May he fill you with joy and make you heralds of his gospel.

R Amen.

When the Word became man, earth was joined to heaven. May he give you his peace and good will, and fellowship with all the heavenly host.

R Amen.

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

R Amen.

Recessional Hymn

1. Joy to the world, the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her king.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing (2)
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy (2)
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace!
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love (2)
And wonders, and wonders of His love

