

Low Mass of  
**First Sunday after Christmas**  
**The Holy Innocents**  
December 28, 2025

**Introit**

WHENAS all the world was in profoundest quietness, and the night was in the midst of her swift course: thine almighty Word, O Lord, leaped down from heaven out of thy royal throne. *Ps. 83.* The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel: the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength. *℣.* Glory be ... Whenas ...

**Collects**

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, direct our actions according to thy good pleasure: that in the Name of thy beloved Son we may be worthy to abound in good works. Through the same ... *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, who out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast ordained strength, and madest infants to glorify thee by their deaths: mortify and kill all vices in us; and so strengthen us by thy grace, that by the innocency of our lives, and constancy of our faith even unto death, we may glorify thy holy Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Prophetic Lesson**

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of

his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

### **Gradual**

Thou art fairer than the children of men: full of grace are thy lips.  
℣. My heart is inditing of a good matter, I speak of things which I have made unto the King: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

### **Epistle**

Galatians iv. 1

NOW I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: but when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

### **Alleluia**

Alleluia, alleluia. ℣. The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel: the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength. Alleluia.

## **Holy Gospel**

St. Matthew i. 18

THE birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: and knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

## **The Sermon**

The Very Rev. Michael Erickson

## **The Offertory**

God hath made the round world so sure that it cannot be moved: ever since the world began hath thy seat, O God, been prepared; thou art from everlasting.

## **Preface of Christmas**

BECAUSE thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very man, of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

## **Communion Verse**

Take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

### **Post-Communion Collects**

GRANT, O Lord, that by the working of this mystery we may be cleansed from our sins: and obtain the fulfilment of our rightful desires. Through.... *Amen.*

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God: that as the Saviour of the world, born on this day, is the author of our heavenly birth, so he may himself likewise be to us the giver of everlasting life. Who with thee.... *Amen.*

WE beseech thee, O Lord, that the gifts which we have received in these holy mysteries: may at the intercession of thy Saints, effectually avail for our succour both in this life and in that which is to come. Through.... *Amen.*

### **The Last Gospel**

St. John i. 1

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