

Monday-Saturday, 26th —31st December, 2022

Year A/1—Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

MONDAY

Feast of St Stephen, First Martyr



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The gates of heaven were opened for blessed Stephen, who was found to be first among the number of the Martyrs and Therefore is crowned triumphant in heaven.

READING: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Stephen was filled with grace and power and began to work miracles and great signs among the people. But then certain people came forward to debate with Stephen, some from Cyrene and Alexandria who were members of the synagogue called the Synagogue of Freedmen, and others from Cilicia and Asia. They found they could not get the better of him because of his wisdom, and because it was the Spirit that prompted what he said. They were infuriated when they heard what he said, and ground their teeth at him.

But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. 'I can see heaven thrown open' he said 'and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' At this all the members of the council shouted out and stopped their ears with their hands; then they all rushed at him, sent him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses put down their clothes at the feet of a young man called Saul. As they were stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and said aloud, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'; and with these words he fell asleep. Saul entirely approved of the killing.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; the Lord God shines upon us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mt 10:17-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus said to the apostles: 'Beware of men: they will hand you over to sanhedrins and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the pagans. But when they hand you over, do not worry about how to speak or what to say; what you are to say will be given to you when the time comes; because it is not you who will be speaking; the Spirit of your Father will be speaking in you.

'Brother will betray brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name; but the man who stands firm to the end will be saved.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

TUESDAY

Feast of St John, apostle, evangelist



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: This is John, who reclined on the Lord's breast at supper, the blessed Apostle, to whom celestial secrets were revealed and who spread the words of life through all the world.

The Glory to God in the highest is said.

READING: *1 Jn 1:1-4*

A reading from the first letter of St John

Something which has existed since the beginning,
that we have heard,
and we have seen with our own eyes;
that we have watched
and touched with our hands:
the Word, who is life –
this is our subject.

That life was made visible:

we saw it and we are giving our testimony, telling you
of the eternal life which was with the Father and has
been made visible to us.

What we have seen and heard we are telling you so
that you too may be in union with us, as we are in
Union with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
We are writing this to you to make our own joy
complete.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: **Let the just rejoice in the Lord.**

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You are God: we praise you; you are the Lord: we
acclaim you; the glorious company of apostles
praise you. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: *Jn 20:2-8*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

On the first day of the week Mary of Magdala came
running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the
one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the
tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have
put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the
tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple,
running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he
bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the
ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was
following now came up, went right into the tomb,
saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth
that had been over his head; this was not with the
linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the
other disciple who had reached the tomb first also
went in; he saw and he believed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **The Word became
flesh and made his dwelling among us, and from his
fullness we have all received.**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: **The innocents were
slaughtered as infants for Christ; spotless, they
follow the Lamb and sing for ever; Glory to you, O
Lord.**

The Glory to God in the highest is said.

READING: *1 Jn 1:5-2:2*

A reading from the first letter of St John

This is what we have heard from Jesus Christ,
and the message that we are announcing to you:
God is light; there is no darkness in him at all.

If we say that we are in union with God
while we are living in darkness,
we are lying because we are not living the truth.

But if we live our lives in the light,
as he is in the light,

we are in union with one another,
and the blood of Jesus, his Son,
purifies us from all sin.

If we say we have no sin in us,
we are deceiving ourselves

and refusing to admit the truth;

but if we acknowledge our sins,
then God who is faithful and just
will forgive our sins and purify us
from everything that is wrong.

To say that we have never sinned
is to call God a liar

and to show that his word is not in us.

I am writing this, my children,

to stop you sinning;

but if anyone should sin,

we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;

he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,

but the whole world's.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: **Our soul has escaped like a bird from the
hunter's net.**

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You are God: we praise you; you are the Lord: we
acclaim you; the white-robed army of martyrs praise
you. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: *Mt 2:13-18*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord
appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up,
take the child and his mother with you, and escape
into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because
Herod intends to search for the child and do away
with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and
his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where
he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil
what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

Herod was furious when he realised that he had been
outwitted by the wise men, and in Bethlehem and its
surrounding district he had all the male children
killed who were two years old or under, reckoning by
the date he had been careful to ask the wise men. It

WEDNESDAY

Feast of the Holy Innocents



was then that the words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah were fulfilled:

A voice was heard in Ramah,
sobbing and loudly lamenting:
it was Rachel weeping for her children,
refusing to be comforted
because they were no more.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold those redeemed as the first fruits of the human race for God and the Lamb, and who follow the Lamb wherever he goes.

THURSDAY

(5th day of the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord)

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

READING: 1Jn 2:3-11

A reading from the first letter of St John

We can be sure that we know Jesus only by keeping his commandments.

Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him. We can be Sure that we are in God only when the one who claims to be living in him is living the same kind of life as Christ lived. My dear people, this is not a new commandment that I am writing to tell you, but an old commandment that you were given from the beginning, the original commandment which was the message brought to you. Yet in another way, what I am writing to you, and what is being carried out in your lives as it was in his, is a new commandment; because the night is Over and the real light is already shining. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his Brother is still in the dark.

But anyone who loves his brother is living in the light and need not be afraid of stumbling; unlike the man who hates his brother and is in the darkness, not knowing where he is going, because it is too dark to see.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Lk 2:22-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man called Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been

revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Through the tender mercy of our God, the Dawn from on high will visit us.

FRIDAY

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

The Glory to God in the highest is said.

FIRST READING: Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing Obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

SECOND READING: Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mt 2:13-15. 19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

SATURDAY

**(7th day of the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord)
Mass of the Day**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

READING: 1 Jn 2:18-21

A reading from the first letter of St John

Children, these are the last days; you were told that an Antichrist must come, and now several antichrists have already appeared; we know from this that these are the last days.

Those rivals of Christ came out of your own number, but they had never really belonged; if they had belonged, they would have stayed with us; but they left us, to prove that not one of them ever belonged to us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and have all received the knowledge. It is not because you do not know the truth that I am writing to you but rather because you know it Already and know that no lie can come from the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: 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.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: God sent his Only Begotten Son into the world, so that we might have life through him.