



# Christmas Novena

December 16

**Antiphon:** Behold, the king will come, the Lord of the earth, and He will remove from us the yoke of our captivity.

**Entrance hymn:** We long to see ...

**Celebrant:** Brethren, rejoice in the Lord! Again I say rejoice!  
The Lord is very near.

**Response:** Blessed be the Lord for ever.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

O God, our Father, you have prepared and promised salvation for all in the history of the people of Israel; grant us the grace to receive the Saviour of the world in Joy and faith. This we ask you through Christ, the Lord, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

**First reading:** Luke 2, 2-5

**Responsorial Psalm:** Is 49, 9-11

Go up on a high mountain, Messenger of Zion.  
Shout as loud as you can, messenger of Jerusalem.  
Shout fearlessly; say to the towns of Judah:  
"Here is your God."  
Here is the Lord Yahweh coming with power,  
His arm maintains his authority;  
His reward is with him  
And his prize precedes him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
Gathering lambs in his arms,  
Holding them against his breast  
And leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**Second reading:** Tertio Millennio Advenient # 3

John, in the Prologue of his Gospel, captures in one phrase all the depth of the mystery of the Incarnation. He writes: "And the world became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father".

For John, the Incarnation of the Eternal Word, of one being with the Father, took place in the conception and birth of Jesus. The Evangelist speaks of the Word, who in the beginning was with God, and through whom everything, which exists, was made; the World in whom was life, the life, which was the light of men.



The fact that the fullness of time this Eternal Word took on the condition of a creature gives a unique cosmic value to the event which took place in Bethlehem two thousand years ago.

By taking flesh, the Word renews the cosmic order of creation. The Letter to the Ephesians speaks of the purpose, which God had set forth in Christ, "as a plan for fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."

**Gospel reading:** Isa 40: 2-5

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

We shall now pray together, asking Christ to come into our lives. To each invocation, our response will be: Come lord, and not delay.

1. Come into our hearts and so cleanse them that we, being pure in heart may see God our Father. (R)
2. Come into our minds and so enlighten them that we may know you, the way, the truth and the life. (R)
3. Come into our lives and so fill them that we may spread everywhere the fragrance of your love. (R)
4. Come to us in our moments of grief and sadness to comfort and console us. (R)
5. Come to those who find their lives a burden to be their comfort and strength. (R)
6. Come to this world to create a new order where justice and peace reign. (R)

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven, each year you gladden us with the expectation of the feast of our redemption. Please grant that as we joyfully receive your only begotten Son as our Saviour, we may also one day welcome Him confidently as our Judge, Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, for He lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever. Amen.

**Antiphon:** Behold, the king will come, the Lord of the earth, and He will remove from us the yoke of our captivity.

**Concluding Hymn:** Soon and very soon...



**December 17**

**Antiphon:** O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

**Entrance hymn:** We long to see ...

**Celebrant:** Brethren, rejoice in the Lord! Again I say rejoice!  
The Lord is very near.



**Response:** Blessed be the Lord for ever.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

O God, our Father, you have prepared and promised salvation for all in the history of the people of Israel; grant us the grace to receive the Saviour of the world in Joy and faith. This we ask you through Christ, the Lord, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

**First reading:** Gn 3: 9-15

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 118, 21-29

I thank you for hearing me, and making yourself my Saviour.  
The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;  
This is the Yahweh's doing, and we marvel at it.

This is the day, which Yahweh has made,  
A day for us to rejoice and be glad.  
We beg you, Yahweh, save us,  
We beg you, Yahweh, give us victory!  
Blessed in the name of Yahweh is he who is coming!  
We bless you from the house of Yahweh.  
Yahweh is God, he gives us light.

You are God, O thank you,  
All praise to you, my God.  
Give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good,  
For his faithful love endures forever.

**Second reading:** Tertio Millennio Advenient # 33

It is appropriate that, as the Second Millennium of Christianity draws to a close, the Church should become more fully conscious of the sinfulness of her children, recalling all those times in history when they departed from the spirit of Christ and his Gospel and, instead of offering to the world the witness of a life inspired by the values of faith, indulged in ways of thinking and acting which were truly forms of counter-witness and scandal.

Although she is holy because of her incorporation into Christ, the Church embraces sinners in her bosom and is always in need of being purified. Therefore, the Church cannot cross the threshold of the new millennium without encouraging her children to purify themselves, through repentance, of past errors and instances of infidelity, inconsistency, and slowness to act.

Acknowledging the weaknesses of the past in an act of honesty and courage, which helps us to strengthen our faith, which alerts us to face today's temptations and challenges and prepares us to meet them.

**Gospel reading:** Luke 2:1-14

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

We shall now pray together, asking Christ to come into our lives. To each invocation, our response will be: Come lord, and not delay.



1. Come into our hearts and so cleanse them that we, being pure in heart may see God our Father. (R)
2. Come into our minds and so enlighten them that we may know you, the way, the truth and the life. (R)
3. Come into our lives and so fill them that we may spread everywhere the fragrance of your love. (R)
4. Come to us in our moments of grief and sadness to comfort and console us. (R)
5. Come to those who find their lives a burden to be their comfort and strength. (R)
6. Come to this world to create a new order where justice and peace reign. (R)

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

As Wisdom, Christ Jesus, you are the teacher of the way to salvation. You told us: "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Come Lord and Master and teach us your way. We ask this in your name. Amen.

**Antiphon:** O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

**Concluding Hymn:** Soon and very soon...



## December 18

**Antiphon:** O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai, I come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

**Entrance hymn:** We long to see ...

**Celebrant:** Brethren, rejoice in the Lord! Again I say rejoice!  
The Lord is very near.

**Response:** Blessed be the Lord for ever.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

O God, our Father, you have prepared and promised salvation for all men in the history of the people of Israel; grant us the grace to receive the Saviour of the world in Joy and faith. This we ask you through Christ, the Lord, who lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

**First reading:** Dt 18:15-19

**Responsorial Psalm:** Dan 7, 13-14  
I was gazing into the visions of the night,



**When I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,  
As it was a son of a man.**

**He came to the One most venerable  
and was led into his presence.  
On him was conferred rule,  
honour and kingship.**

**All peoples, nations and languages became his servants.  
His rule an everlasting rule  
which will never pass away,  
and his kingship will never come to an end.**

**Second reading: Tertio Millennio Adveniente # 16**

**The term " Jubilee " speaks of joy; not just an inner joy but a jubilation which is manifested outwardly, the coming of God is also an outward, visible, audible, audible and tangible event. It is thus appropriate that every sign of joy at this coming should have its own outward expression. This will demonstrate the Church rejoices in salvation. She invites every one to rejoice, and she tries to create conditions to ensure that the power of salvation may be shared by all.**

**Gospel reading: Mt 5:17-20**

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

**As men in need of salvation, let us invoke the father that he may send us the saviour. Let us pray for the church, that she may faithfully watch and receive the gift of salvation. Your response will be: Hear Us, O Lord.**

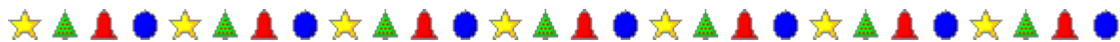
- 1. Let us pray for all men, that they may quench their thirst for love in the encounter with the Lord who is to come. (R)**
- 2. Let us pray for youth, that the Saviour of the world may be the reason and the strength of their hope. (R)**
- 3. Let us pray for our community, that the Lord who is to come may help us to live in peace as true brothers. (R)**

**Celebrant: Let us pray.**

**Christ Jesus, as Lord you have the power to free us as you did your people at the time of the exodus. Come, Lord Jesus, and stretch out your arm to set us free from evil, sin and death. We ask this in your name. Amen.**

**Antiphon: O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai, I come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.**

**Concluding Hymn: Soon and very soon...**



**December 19**



**Antiphon:** O Flower of Jesus' stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come; let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

**Entrance Hymn:** We long to see ...

**Celebrant:** Brethren, rejoice in the Lord! Again I say rejoice!  
The Lord is very near.

**Response:** Blessed be the Lord for ever.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

O God, our Father, you have prepared and promised salvation for all men in the history of the people of Israel; grant us the grace to receive the Saviour of the world in Joy and faith. This we ask you through Christ, the Lord, who lives and reigns for ever. Amen

**First reading:** 2 Sam 7: 1- 10

**Responsorial Psalm:** Is 52, 7-10

How beautiful on the mountains  
Are the feet of the messenger announcing peace?  
Of the messenger of good news.  
Who proclaims salvation and says to Zion,  
"Your God is King!"  
Now they raise their voices,  
Shouting for joy together,  
For with their own eyes they have seen  
Yahweh returning to Zion.  
Break into shouts together,  
Shouts of joy, you ruins of Jerusalem;  
For Yahweh has consoled his people,  
He has redeemed Jerusalem.  
Yahweh has bared his holy arm  
For all the nations to see,  
And all the ends of the earth  
Have seen the salvation of our God.

**Second reading:** Terito Millennio Adeveniente # 7

In Jesus Christ God not only speaks to man but also seek him out. It is a search, which begins in the heart of God and culminates in the Incarnation of the Word. If God goes in search of man, created in his own image and likeness, he does so because he loves him eternally in the Word, and wishes to raise him in Christ to the dignity of an adoptive son. Man is God's possession by virtue of a choice made love: God seeks man out, moved by his fatherly heart.

Why does God seek man out through his Son? Because man has turned away from him. God wishes to persuade man to abandon the paths of evil, which lead him farther and farther a field. " Making him abandon " those



paths means making man understand that he is taking the wrong path; it means overcoming the evil which is every where found in human history. Overcoming evil: this is the meaning of the redemption.

The Son of God became man., taking a body and soul in the womb of the Virgin, precisely for this reason: to become the perfect redeeming sacrifice. The religion of the Incarnation is the religion of the world's Redemption through the sacrifice. Accepting death on the Cross-, Christ at the same time reveals and gives life, because he rises again and death no longer has power over him.

**Gospel reading:** Mt 21:1-10

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

We shall now pray together, asking Christ to come into our lives. To each invocation, our response will be: Come lord, and not delay.

1. Come into our hearts and so cleanse them that we, being pure in heart may see God our Father. (R)
2. Come into our minds and so enlighten them that we may know you, the way, the truth and the life. (R)
3. Come into our lives and so fill them that we may spread everywhere the fragrance of your love. (R)
4. Come to us in our moments of grief and sadness to comfort and console us. (R)
5. Come to those who find their lives a burden to be their comfort and strength. (R)
6. Come to this world to create a new order where justice and peace reign. (R)

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

Christ Jesus, you were lifted up on the cross to be the conqueror of all hearts, yet you have not been allowed to be fully the ruler of all hearts, beginning with our own. Come and be the sign, for the world and for our own souls. Live in us Jesus so that we may love you above all and bring others to your love. We ask this in your name. Amen.

**Antiphon:** O Flower of Jesus' stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come; let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

**Concluding Hymn:** Soon and very soon...



**December 20**

**Antiphon:** O Key of David, O royal power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven. Come, break down the prison walls of death for those



who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

**Entrance hymn:** We long to see ...

**Celebrant:** Brethren, rejoice in the Lord! Again I say rejoice!  
The Lord is very near.

**Response:** Blessed be the Lord for ever.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

O God, our Father, you have prepared and promised salvation for all men in the history of the people of Israel; grant us the grace to receive the Saviour of the world in Joy and faith. This we ask you through Christ, the Lord, who lives and reigns for ever. Amen

**First reading:** Is 7 10-14

**Responsorial Psalm:** Is 25, 7-10

On this mountain, he has destroyed  
The veil which used to veil all peoples,  
The pall enveloping all nations.  
He has destroyed death forever.  
The Lord Yahweh has wiped away the tears from every cheek;  
He has taken his people's shame away everywhere on earth,  
For Yahweh has spoken.  
And on the day, it will be said,  
"Look, this is our God,  
in him we put our hope that he should save us,  
this is Yahweh, we put our hope in him.  
Let us exult and rejoice since he has saved us,  
For Yahweh's hand will rest on this mountain.

**Second reading:** Tertio Millennio Adveniente # 8

The Religion which originates in the mystery of the Redemptive Incarnation is the religion of "dwelling in the heart of God", of sharing in God's very life. As St. Paul says, "God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father' " Man cries out like Christ himself, who turned to God " with loud cries and tears ", especially in Gethsemane and on the Cross; man cries out to God just as Christ cried out to him, and thus he bears witness that he shares in Christ's son ship through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, whom the Father has sent in the name of the Son, enables man to share in the inmost life of God. He also enables man to be a son, in the likeness of Christ, and an heir of all that belongs to the Son of God. In this consist the religion of "dwelling in the inmost life of God", which begins with the Incarnation of the Son of God. It is the Holy Spirit, who searches the depths of God, who leads us, all mankind, into these depths.

**Gospel reading:** Phil. 2:5-11



**Prayer of the Faithful:**

We shall now pray together, asking Christ to come into our lives. To each invocation, our response will be: Come lord, and not delay.

1. Come into our hearts and so cleanse them that we, being pure in heart may see God our Father. (R)
2. Come into our minds and so enlighten them that we may know you, the way, the truth and the life. (R)
3. Come into our lives and so fill them that we may spread everywhere the fragrance of your love. (R)
4. Come to us in our moments of grief and sadness to comfort and console us. (R)
5. Come to those who find their lives a burden to be their comfort and strength. (R)
6. Come to this world to create a new order where justice and peace reign. (R)

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

Christ Jesus, come and unlock the prison of sin. Free us from the prison of pride and selfishness and reign in our hearts as King. We ask this in our name. Amen.

**Antiphon:** O Key of David, O royal power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven. Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

**Concluding Hymn:** Soon and very soon...



**December 21**

**Antiphon:** O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

**Entrance hymn:** We long to see ...

**Celebrant:** Brethren, rejoice in the Lord! Again I say rejoice!  
The Lord is very near.

**Response:** Blessed be the Lord for ever.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

O God, our Father, you have prepared and promised salvation for all men in the history of the people of Israel; grant us the grace to receive the Saviour of the world in Joy and faith. This we ask you through Christ, the Lord, who lives and reigns for ever. Amen



**First reading:** Is 11:1-9

**Responsorial Psalm:** Is 62, 10-11

Pass through pass through the gates.

Clear a way for my people!

Leave up the highway,

Remove the stones!

Hoist a signal to the peoples!

This is what Yahweh has proclaimed

To the remotest part of earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion: "Look your salvation is coming;

With him comes his reward, his achievement precedes him!"

**Second reading:** Tertio Millennio Adveniente # 6

Jesus was born of the Chosen People, in fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham and constantly recalled by the Prophets. The latter spoke in God's name and in his place. The Old Testament, in fact was essentially ordered to preparing and proclaiming the coming of Christ, the Redeemer of the universal, and of his Messianic Kingdom. It was part of a careful divine pedagogy. This pedagogy achieved its purpose in Christ: Jesus did not in fact merely "in the name of God" like the Prophets but he was God himself speaking in his Eternal Word made flesh.

Here we touch upon the essential point by which Christianity differs from all the other religions, by which man's search for God has been expressed from earliest times. Christianity has its starting point in the Incarnation of the Word. Here, it is not simply a case of man seeking God, but of God who comes in Person to speak to man of himself and to show him the path by which he may be reached. This is what is proclaimed in the Prologue of John's Gospel: "No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known" (1, 18). The Incarnate Word is thus the fulfillment of the yearning present in all the religions of mankind: this fulfillment is brought about by God himself and transcends all human expectations. It is the mystery of grace.

In Christ, then religion is no longer a "blind search for God" (Acts 17, 27) but the response of faith to God who reveals himself. It is a response in which man speaks to God as his Creator and Father, a response made possible by that one Man who is also the consubstantial Word in whom God Speaks to each individual and by whom each individual person is enabled to respond to God.

**Gospel reading:** Lk 4:14 -21

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

We shall now pray together, asking Christ to come into our lives. To each invocation, our response will be: Come lord, and not delay.

1. Come into our hearts and so cleanse them that we, being pure in heart may see God our Father. (R)



2. **Come into our minds and so enlighten them that we may know you, the way, the truth and the life. (R)**
3. **Come into our lives and so fill them that we may spread everywhere the fragrance of your love. (R)**
4. **Come to us in our moments of grief and sadness to comfort and console us. (R)**
5. **Come to those who find their lives a burden to be their comfort and strength. (R)**
6. **Come to this world to create a new order where justice and peace reign. (R)**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

**Christ Jesus, Sun of justice, what the sun does for the sky you do for the kingdom of God, you send out rays of holiness and grace. Come and shine on those who are dwelling in darkness and in the shadow of death. We ask this in your. Amen.**

**Antiphon:** O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

**Concluding Hymn:** Soon and very soon...



## December 22

**Antiphon:** O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart: you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save man whom you fashioned from the dust.

**Entrance hymn:** We long to see ...

**Celebrant:** Brethren, rejoice in the Lord! Again I say rejoice!  
The Lord is very near.

**Response:** Blessed be the Lord for ever.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

**O God, our Father, you have prepared and promised salvation for all men in the history of the people of Israel; grant us the grace to receive the Saviour of the world in Joy and faith. This we ask you through Christ, the Lord, who lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

**First reading:** Is 53:2-5:11-12

**Responsorial Psalm:** Is 58, 8-11

**Then your light will blaze out like the dawn  
And your wound is quickly healed over.  
Saving justice for you will go ahead**



**And Yahweh's glory comes behind you.  
Then you will cry for help and Yahweh will answer; you will call and he will say, "I am here."**

**If you do away with the yoke,  
The clenched fist and malicious words,  
If you deprive yourself for the hungry,  
And satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
Your light will rise in the darkness,  
And your darkest hour will be like noon.  
Yahweh will always guide you,  
Will satisfy your needs in the scorched land;  
He will give strength to your bones  
And you will be like a watered garden,  
Like a flowing spring  
Whose waters never run dry.**

**Second reading: Tertio Millennio Adveniente # 2**

**In the Jubilee Year Christians will stand with the renewed wonder of faith before the love of the Father, who gave his Son, " that whoever be lives in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3,16 ). With a profound sense of commitment, they will likewise express their gratitude for the gift of the Church, established by Christ "a kind of sacrament or sign of intimate union with God, and of the unity of all mankind". Their thanksgiving will embrace the fruits of holiness which matured in the life of all those many men and women who in every generation and every period of history have welcomed the gift of Redemption.**

**Gospel reading: Mt 21:12-16**

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

**We shall now pray together, asking Christ to come into our lives. To each invocation, our response will be: Come lord, and not delay.**

- 1. Come into our hearts and so cleanse them that we, being pure in heart may see God our Father. (R)**
- 2. Come into our minds and so enlighten them that we may know you, the way, the truth and the life. (R)**
- 3. Come into our lives and so fill them that we may spread everywhere the fragrance of your love. (R)**
- 4. Come to us in our moments of grief and sadness to comfort and console us. (R)**
- 5. Come to those who find their lives a burden to be their comfort and strength. (R)**
- 6. Come to this world to create a new order where justice and peace reign. (R)**

**Celebrant: Let us pray.**

**Christ Jesus, you are the cornerstone, the foundation promised by God. Without you there is no hope for salvation. Through the mystery of your incarnation lead us all to the salvation for which we yearn. We ask this in your name. Amen.**



**Antiphon:** O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart: you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save man whom you fashioned from the dust.

**Concluding Hymn:** Soon and very soon...



### December 23

**Antiphon:** O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of all nations, Saviour of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.

**Entrance hymn:** We long to see ...

**Celebrant:** Brethren, rejoice in the Lord! Again I say rejoice!  
The Lord is very near.

**Response:** Blessed be the Lord for ever.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

O God, our Father, you have prepared and promised salvation for all men in the history of the people of Israel; grant us the grace to receive the Saviour of the world in Joy and faith. This we ask you through Christ, the Lord, who lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

**First reading:** Lk 1, 26-38

**Responsorial Psalm:** Is 35, 2, 3-6, 10  
Let the desert and the dry lands be glad,  
Let the wastelands rejoice and bloom.  
Say to the faint-hearted,  
"Be strong! Do not be afraid.  
Here is your God... he is coming to you."  
Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
The ears of the deaf unsealed,  
Then the lame will leap like a deer  
And the tongues of the dumb sing for joy.

Those whom Yahweh has ransomed will return,  
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
Their heads crowned with joy escort them  
And sorrow and sighing will take flight.

**Second reading:** Tertio Millennio Adveniente # 2

In his Gospel Luke has handed down to us concise narrative of the circumstances of Jesus; birth... Thus was fulfilled what the Angel Gabriel foretold at the Annunciation, when he spoke to the Virgin of Nazareth in those words: "Hail full of grace, the Lord is with you" (1:28).



Mary was troubled by these words, and so the divine messenger quickly added: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be the called the Son of the Most High... The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will over shadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" ( 1:23-33,35).

Mary's reply to the angel was unhesitating: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word "(1:38). Never in human history did so much depend, as it did then, upon the consent of the human creature.

**Gospel reading:** Gal. 4:4-7

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

We shall now pray together, asking Christ to come into our lives. To each invocation, our response will be: Come lord, and not delay.

1. Come into our hearts and so cleanse them that we, being pure in heart may see God our Father. (R)
2. Come into our minds and so enlighten them that we may know you, the way, the truth and the life. (R)
3. Come into our lives and so fill them that we may spread everywhere the fragrance of your love. (R)
4. Come to us in our moments of grief and sadness to comfort and console us. (R)
5. Come to those who find their lives a burden to be their comfort and strength. (R)
6. Come to this world to create a new order where justice and peace reign. (R)

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

Christ Jesus you are our King and the expectation of the nations. Saviour and Emmanuel come and set us free from sin and death, for you are our Lord and God. We ask this in your name. Amen.

**Antiphon:** O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of all nations, Saviour of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.

**Concluding Hymn:** Soon and very soon...



**December 24**



**Antiphon:** When the sun rises in the heavens you will see the king of kings. He comes forth from the Father like a bridegroom coming in splendour from his wedding chamber.

**Entrance hymn:** We long to see ...

**Celebrant:** Brethren, rejoice in the Lord! Again I say rejoice!  
The Lord is very near.

**Response:** Blessed be the Lord for ever.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

O God, our Father, you have prepared and promised salvation for all men in the history of the people of Israel; grant us the grace to receive the Saviour of the world in Joy and faith. This we ask you through Christ, the Lord, who lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

**First reading:** Luke 2, 6-7, 16-19

**Responsorial Psalm:** 40, 6-10

You wanted no sacrifice or cereal offering,  
But you gave me an open ear,  
You did not ask for burnt offering or sacrifice for sin;  
Then I said, "Here I am. I am coming."  
In the scroll of the book it is written of me,  
My delight is to do your will.  
Your law, my God,  
Is deep in my heart.  
I proclaimed the saving justice of Yahweh  
In the great assembly;  
See, I will assemble;  
As you well know.  
I have not kept your saving justice locked in the depths of my heart,  
But have spoken of your constancy and saving help.  
I have made no secret of your faithful and steadfast love,  
In the great assembly.

**Second reading:** Tertio Millennio Adveniente # 4

Christ, the Redeemer of the world, is the one Mediator between God and men, and there is no other name under heaven by which we can be saved (cf. Acts 4, 12). As we read in the Letter to the Ephesians: "in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the richness of his grace, which he has lavished upon us. For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight... his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" ( 1,7-10).

Christ, the Son who is one being with the Father is therefore the one who reveals God's plan for all creation, and man in particular. In the memorable phrase of the Second Vatican Council, " fully reveals man to man himself



and makes his supreme calling clear " ( GS 22). He shows us this calling by revealing the mystery of the Father and his love.

As the image the visible God, Christ is the perfect man who has restored to the children of Adam the divine likeness which has been deformed by sin In his human nature, free from all sin and assumed into the divine Person of the World, the nature shared by all human beings is raised to a sublime dignity: "By his incarnation the Son of God united himself in some sense with every man. He laboured with human hands thought with a human mind, acted with a human will and loved with a human heart. Born of Mary the Virgin he truly became one of us and, sin apart was like us in every way" (Ibid).

**Gospel reading:** Mt 21:12-16

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

We shall now pray together, asking Christ to come into our lives. To each invocation, our response will be: Come lord, and not delay.

1. Come into our hearts and so cleanse them that we, being pure in heart may see God our Father. (R)
2. Come into our minds and so enlighten them that we may know you, the way, the truth and the life. (R)
3. Come into our lives and so fill them that we may spread everywhere the fragrance of your love. (R)
4. Come to us in our moments of grief and sadness to comfort and console us. (R)
5. Come to those who find their lives a burden to be their comfort and strength. (R)
6. Come to this world to create a new order where justice and peace reign. (R)

**Let us pray:**

Loving Father, fill us with joy and loves as we prepare our heart for the coming of our Lord Saviour. May our remembrance of his birth inspire us to deeds of love and mercy. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

**Antiphon:** When the sun rises in the heavens you will see the king of kings. He comes forth from the Father like a bridegroom coming in splendour from his wedding chamber.

**Concluding Hymn:** Soon and very soon...

