

The Collects, Epistles and Gospels of the Liberal Catholic liturgy, rendered into gender-neutral, modern language, as an alternative form, by The Mission Episcopate of Saints Francis and Clare,

A Eucharistic Community in the Liberal Catholic Tradition.

## **The Nativity of Our Lady**

*September 8. White or Gold Vestments. Proper Gradual and Preface. In the MESFC Class A, first vespers, at least 6 candles at Mass. ( in the LCA, Class C, White or Gold vestments, "fewer extra candles").*

### *The Collects*

P. Christ be with you

**C. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us pray.

### *The collect for purity*

P. Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy Name. In Christ's name we pray. **R/. Amen.**

*The priest then intones or says the collect of the day and other collects, if any, and finally the collect for peace:*

### *The collect of the day*

WE thank You, O God, for that most sweet and laudable pattern set before us by the holy Lady Mary, mother of Jesus, whom Your holy Church has ever held up to her people as a bright example of purity and godly life, and we pray that on this the Festival of her Nativity there may shine forth within us the light of ever-growing purity and holiness.

In Christ's name we pray. **R/. Amen.**

### *The collect for peace*

Teach us, Most High, to see your life in all the peoples of your earth, and so guide the nations into an understanding of your laws that peace and goodwill may reign upon earth; In Christ's name we pray. **R/. Amen.**

### *The Epistle*

The portion of Scripture appointed for the Epistle is taken from the eighth chapter of the Book of the Wisdom of Solomon, beginning at the first verse.

WISDOM reaches from one end of the world to the other. Mightily and sweetly does she order all things. In that she is conversant with God, she has magnified her nobility. Indeed, the Creator of all things loved her, for she is privy to the mysteries of the knowledge of God, and a lover of God's works. If riches be a possession to be desired in this life, what is richer than wisdom, that works all things? And if prudence work, who out of all that are, is a more astute

worker than she? If we love righteousness, her labours are virtues, for she teaches temperance and prudence, justice and fortitude, and there is nothing more profitable than which that we can have in our lives. By means of her I shall obtain immortality, for she is the mother of fair love and of patience and perseverance, and of holy hope. You shall put her on as a robe of honour, and shall put her about you as a crown of joy.

Here ends the Epistle.

*The epistle ended, all stand and sing:*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Gradual for the Nativity of Our Lady.*

1. **Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Word is with you: blessed are you among women.**
2. **And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the most High: be it unto me according to your word.**
3. **My soul magnifies you, Most High: and my spirit has rejoiced in you, my God and Savior.**
4. **For you have regarded: the lowliness of your handmaiden.**
5. **For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.**
6. **For you who are mighty have magnified me: and holy is your name.**

*Munda Cor Meum*

D. Cleanse my heart and my lips, O God, who by the hand of your seraph did cleanse the lips of the prophet Isaiah with a burning coal from your altar and in your lovingkindness so purify me that I may worthily proclaim your holy gospel; In Christ's name.

C. May the Most High be in your (+) heart and on your (+) lips, that through your heart the love of God may shine forth and through your lips God's power be made manifest. **R/. Amen.**

*The Gospel*

P OR D. Christ be with you.

**C. And with your spirit.**

The holy Gospel is taken from the first chapter of that according to St. Luke, beginning at the thirty-ninth verse.

**C: Glory be to you, O Holy One.**

MARY arose in those days, and went into the hill country, into a city of Juda, and entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elizabeth. And it came to pass that when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, she was filled with the Holy Ghost, and she spoke out with a loud voice, and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why is this, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For see, as soon as the voice of your salutation sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she that has believed, for there shall be fulfilment of those things which were told her from the Most High" And Mary

said, "My soul magnifies the Most High, and my spirit has rejoiced in God the Saviour, who has regarded the lowliness of this handmaiden, for behold from henceforth all generations shall count me blessed. For the Mighty One has magnified me, and holy is God's Name."

**R/Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*The Preface for the Nativity of Our Lady.*

P. It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto you,

but to-day we chiefly praise You for the help and the example of the holy Lady Mary, Star of the Sea and Mother of our Lord, Queen of the Angels, our pattern of humility and purity.

Therefore, we pray that with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Powers, with Cherubim and Seraphim and with all the company of heaven, we too may laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying: