

Jesus Christ our Saviour, eternal God, and Mary's Son,
we adore you forevermore.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
from this day all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him:
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm:
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones:
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel:
for he has remembered his promise of mercy.
The promise he made to our fathers:
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father and the Son:
and the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now:
and will be for evermore. Amen.**

Jesus Christ our Saviour, eternal God, and Mary's Son,
we adore you forevermore.

WE SING A CAROL

THE BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord:
God be praised for evermore.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
Amen.

Christmas Eve
Vespers

WE SING A CAROL

OPENING SENTENCES

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.
The Word became flesh
and lived among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;
Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

WE SING A CAROL

WE PRAY

Joyous light of glory:
**Of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.
We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light.
We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
You are worthy of being praised
with pure voices forever.
O Son of God, O Giver of life:
The universe proclaims your glory.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night: Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and we, your creatures glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

WE READ/SING A PSALM *(one or more of these psalms are said or sung)*

PSALM 96

Today a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.
**Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**
Today a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

PSALM 97

A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.
**Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**
A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

PSALM 98

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
**Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

WE SING A CAROL

GOSPEL READING *(LUKE 2:1-20)*

Hear the gospel of the Lord as it is written in the Gospel according to St Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-20.
(after the gospel)
This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ, Light of the world.
The light of Christ shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
Stay with us, Lord, because it is almost evening
and the day is now nearly over.

May the Light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

WE LISTEN TO THE SERMON

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH

We have again heard the Christmas story, revealing to us the mystery of how our heavenly Father sent his Son into this world, to be born as a little baby for us and our salvation.

Let us now confess our faith in this great and loving God.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence he will come 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 the life everlasting.
Amen.**

* 'catholic' here meaning 'universal'

WE SING A CAROL

WE PRAY FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

Lord, have mercy:

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

Prayer response:

Lord Jesus:

be with us.