



Milan Cathedral

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

At the Vigil Mass

Ambrosian Rite

*The Dean and Chapter welcome you to the Metropolitan Cathedral of Santa Maria Nascente, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Milan. The Cathedral welcomes you to the Holy Mass celebrated according to the Milanese Rite, also named Ambrosian after its main Patron, St. Ambrose (bishop of Milan from 374 to 397). This Rite has its own Calendar and the readings of this leaflet are taken from the Ambrosian Lectionary.*

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# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading

Nm 24: 15-25a

### **A reading from the Book of Numbers**

Balaam recited his poem: "The oracle of Balaam, son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is true, the oracle of one who hears what God says, and knows what the Most High knows, of one who sees what the Almighty sees, in rapture and with eyes unveiled. I see him, though not now; I observe him, though not near: a star shall advance from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel, that will crush the brows of Moab, and the skull of all the Sethites, Edom will be dispossessed, and no survivor is left in Seir. Israel will act boldly, and Jacob will rule his foes."

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Upon seeing Amalek, he recited his poem: "First of the nations is Amalek, but their end is to perish forever." Upon seeing the Kenites, he recited his poem: "Though your dwelling is safe, and your nest is set on a cliff; yet Kain will be destroyed when Asshur takes you captive." He recited his poem: "Alas! Who can live when God does this? Ships will come from the shores of Kittim; they will subdue Ashur and Eber, but they too will come to ruin." Then Balaam set out on his journey home.

The word of the Lord.

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## Second Reading

Is 49: 8-13

### **A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah**

In those days. Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you; I form you and set you as a covenant for the people, to restore the land and allot the devastated heritages, to say to the prisoners: Come out! To those in darkness: Show yourselves!

Along the roadways they shall find pasture, on every barren height shall their pastures be. They shall not hunger or thirst; nor shall scorching wind or sun strike them; for he who pities them leads them and guides them beside springs of water. I will turn all my mountains into roadway, and make my highways level. See, these shall come from afar: some from the north and the west, others from

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the land of Sinim." Sing out, heavens, and rejoice, earth, break forth into song, you mountains, for the Lord comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted.

The word of the Lord.

### Third Reading

2 Kgs 2: 1-12b

#### **A reading from the Second Book of Kings**

In those days. When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, he and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please. The Lord has sent me on to Bethel." Elisha replied, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The guild prophets who were in Bethel went out to Elisha and asked him, "Do

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you know that today the Lord will take your master from you?" He replied, "Yes, I know that. Be still." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please. The Lord has sent me on to Jericho." Elisha replied, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The guild prophets who were in Jericho approached Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master from you?" He replied, "Yes, I know that. Be still." Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please. The Lord has sent me on to the Jordan." Elisha replied, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two went on together.

Fifty of the guild prophets followed and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood next to the Jordan. Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up and struck the water: it divided, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

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When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Request whatever I might do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha answered, "May I receive a double portion of your spirit." He replied, "You have asked something that is not easy. Still, if you see me taken up from you, your wish will be granted; otherwise not." As they walked on still conversing, a fiery chariot and fiery horses came between the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind, and Elisha saw it happen. He cried out, "My father! my father! Israel's chariot and steeds!" Then he saw him no longer.

The word of the Lord.

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## Fourth Reading

2 Kgs 6: 1-7

### **A reading from the Second Book of Kings**

In those days. The guild prophets once said to Elisha: "This place where we live with you is too cramped for us. Let us go to the Jordan, where by getting one beam apiece we can build ourselves a place to live." Elisha said, "Go." One of them requested, "Please agree to accompany your servants." He replied, "Yes, I will come." So he went with them.

And when they arrived at the Jordan they began to cut down trees. While one of them was felling a tree trunk, the iron ax blade slipped into the water. He cried out, "Oh, no, master! It was borrowed!" "Where did it fall?" asked the man of God. When he pointed out the spot, Elisha cut off a stick, threw it into the water, and brought the iron to the surface. He

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said, "Pick it up." And the man stretched out his hand and grasped it.

The word of the Lord.

## **Fifth Reading (Epistle)**

Ti 3: 3-7

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus**

Beloved, we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, deluded, slaves to various desires and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful ourselves and hating one another.

But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit, whom he richly

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poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

## Gospel

Jn 1: 29a. 30-34

### **A reading of the holy Gospel according to John**

At that time. John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel."

John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the

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sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.



# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*In the Ambrosian Liturgy the Rite of peace comes before the offertory (presentation of the gifts), according to the teaching of Our Lord: «If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift» (Matthew 5: 23-24). The Creed follows the offertory.*

## The Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

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For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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## Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## Pater noster

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

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*The Holy Church celebrates the Risen Lord. The Cathedral keeps magnificent works of art and treasures the relics of many holy bishops; we mention here only St. Carlo Borromeo (1538-1584), and the Blessed Archbishops Andrea Carlo Ferrari (1850-1921) and Alfredo Ildefonso Schuster (1880-1954).*

Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano

Image: Milan, Metropolitan Chapter Library,  
*Ambrosian Evangeliary* by Pietro Casola  
(miniature, 1502)



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DUOMO DI MILANO