



## Milan Cathedral

### **THE NATIVITY 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.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

Gn 15: 1-7

### A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days. The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not fear, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great." But Abram said, "Lord God, what can you give me, if I die childless and have only a servant of my household, Eliezer of Damascus?" Abram continued, "Look, you have given me no offspring, so a servant of my household will be my heir."

Then the word of the Lord came to him: "No, that one will not be your heir; your own offspring will be your heir." He took him outside and said: "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so, he added, will your descendants be." Abram

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put his faith in the Lord, who attributed it to him as an act of righteousness.

He then said to him: "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession."

The word of the Lord.

## Second Reading

1 Sm 1: 7c-17

### A reading from the First Book of Samuel

In those days. Hannah would weep and refuse to eat. Elkanah, her husband, would say to her: "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why are you not eating? Why are you so miserable? Am I not better for you than ten sons?"

Hannah rose after one such meal at Shiloh, and presented herself before the Lord; at the time Eli the priest was sitting

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on a chair near the doorpost of the Lord's temple. In her bitterness she prayed to the Lord, weeping freely, and made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if you look with pity on the hardship of your servant, if you remember me and do not forget me, if you give your handmaid a male child, I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life. No razor shall ever touch his head."

As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli watched her mouth, for Hannah was praying silently; though her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard. Eli, thinking she was drunk, said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Sober up from your wine!" "No, my lord!" Hannah answered. "I am an unhappy woman. I have had neither wine nor liquor; I was only pouring out my heart to the Lord. Do not think your servant a worthless woman; my prayer

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has been prompted by my deep sorrow and misery."

Eli said, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have requested."

The word of the Lord.

### **Third Reading**

Is 7: 10-16

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

In those days. Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: "Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as Sheol, or high as the sky!" But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!" Then Isaiah said: "Listen, house of David! Is it not enough that you weary human beings? Must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign;

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the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel. Curds and honey he will eat so that he may learn to reject evil and choose good; for before the child learns to reject evil and choose good, the land of those two kings whom you dread shall be deserted."

The word of the Lord.

## Fourth Reading

Jgs 13: 2-9a

### A reading from the Book of Judgs

In those days. There was a certain man from Zorah, of the clan of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren and had borne no children. An angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her: "Though you are barren

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and have had no children, you will conceive and bear a son. Now, then, be careful to drink no wine or beer and to eat nothing unclean, for you will conceive and bear a son. No razor shall touch his head, for the boy is to be a nazirite for God from the womb. It is he who will begin to save Israel from the power of the Philistines."

The woman went and told her husband, "A man of God came to me; he had the appearance of an angel of God, fearsome indeed. I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name. But he said to me, 'You will conceive and bear a son. So drink no wine or beer, and eat nothing unclean. For the boy shall be a nazirite for God from the womb, until the day of his death.'"

Manoah then prayed to the Lord. "Please, my Lord," he said, "may the man of God whom you sent return to us to teach us

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what to do for the boy who is to be born.”  
God heard the prayer of Manoah.  
The word of the Lord.

## **Fifth Reading (Epistle)**

Heb 10: 37-39

### **A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

Brethren, “after just a brief moment, he who is to come shall come; he shall not delay. But my just one shall live by faith, and if he draws back I take no pleasure in him.” We are not among those who draw back and perish, but among those who have faith and will possess life.

The word of the Lord.



# Gospel

Mt 1: 18-25

## A reading of the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the

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prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

**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, Duomo



DUOMO DI MILANO