

Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

Year C



The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen**

FIRST READING A reading from the second book of Samuel (5:1-3)



All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all

their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel." So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel. **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 121:1-5. R. Cf. v.2)

**R. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'**

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. **R.**

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. **R.**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians (1:12-20)

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation,
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers –
all things were created through him and for him.
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.

As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he should be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection
to be found in him,
and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace
by his death on the cross. **The word of the Lord.**

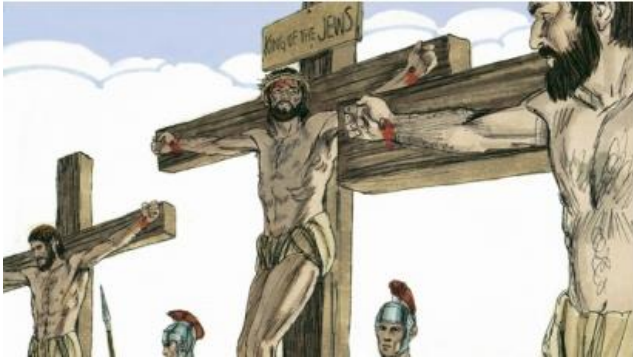
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Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (23:35-43)



The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.' **The Gospel of the Lord.**

The Nicene Creed

**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 and for our salvation
he came down from heaven, (all bow until man)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**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**

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ entered time and history through the Incarnation. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth" Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, is a gift of love from the Father for the salvation of the world, the one who died for all of human mankind, our "Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ".

Jesus, the Lamb of God, fulfils Old Testament prophecy. *Yeshua*, his very name in Hebrew, means "the Lord Saves." The Lamb of God recalls the Passover Lamb, whose blood was sprinkled on the houses of the Israelites to protect them during the Exodus from Egypt. The Messiah as the suffering servant will give his life as an offering for sin.

God is love! The mystery of the Cross reveals the open arms of Christ Jesus. Jesus practiced what he preached: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down his life for his friends".

On the point of Jesus' death, "one of the soldiers thrust a lance into his side and immediately blood and water came out". The open side of the Saviour is the beginning of the new definitive community, a New Covenant in Christ, symbolized by water and blood, the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist, and through them the Church as the sign of the new community of humankind. It is on the cross that Jesus is most definitively our Saviour and most mysteriously our Lord and King. Today we acknowledge him once more as our Lord and King, we renew that Covenant as the new Israel of God.