

AN OUTLINE FOR THE PROPER OF AN ORDINARY-FORM “RORATE MASS” (VOTIVE MASS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ON SATURDAYS IN ADVENT)

The liturgical books of the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite possess great flexibility in the choices of liturgical texts for a Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The options presented below reflect a Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturdays in Advent whose texts—in particular the readings and chants—match most closely with those of the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite. Those elements that match their Extraordinary-Form counterparts are in [blue text](#). [Optional elements are enclosed in square brackets.]

GR: *Graduale Romanum* 1974

LM: *Lectionary for Mass* (USA), 2002 (reference number)

RM: *Roman Missal Third Edition* (ICEL), 2010

[PROCESSIONAL: *Rorate caeli desuper*

**R/. Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One.**

V/. Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever:
the holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee. **R/.**

V/. We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf:
and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;
thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. **R/.**

V/. Behold, O Lord, the affliction of thy people and send forth Him who is to come
send forth the Lamb, the ruler of the earth from Petra of the desert to the mount of the daughter
of Sion that He may take away the yoke of our captivity. **R/.**

V/. Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, my salvation shall not tarry:
why wilt thou waste away in sadness? why hath sorrow seized thee?
Fear not, for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. **R/.**]

ENTRANCE CHANT: [GR 403, RM 1048 — Is 45:8; Ps 85¹](#)

[A/. Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the
earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.](#)

¹ English-language derivatives of the Entrance Chant are available in *Simple English Propers* [\[PDF\]](#) (Church Music Association of America); *Lumen Christi Simple Gradual* [\[PDF\]](#) (Illuminare Publications). Both incorporate the verses for the 4th Sunday of Advent (Ps 19) rather than the Rorate Mass (Ps 85). Skilled cantors will be able to substitute verses as needed.

[V/. O LORD, you have favored your land, and brought back the captives of Jacob. (A/.)]

[V/. Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. A/.]

COLLECT: RM 1048, option 1

O God, who willed that at the message of an angel your Word should take flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grant that we, who pray to you and believe her to be truly the Mother of God, may be helped by her interceding before you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

READING I: LM 707.7 — Isaiah 7:10–14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

RESP. PSALM: LM 709.5 — Luke: 1:49; 46–55

R/. The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

V/. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. **R/.**

V/. For he has looked with favor 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. **R/.**

V/. 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. **R/.**

V/. 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. **R/.**

V/. 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. **R/.**

or GRADUAL: GR 25 — Ps 24:7; 3, 4

O princes, lift up your gates; be lifted high, O eternal gates, and the King of Glory shall make his entry.

V/. Who will go up to the mountain of the Lord, and who shall stand in his holy place? He who has innocent hands and a pure heart.

[READING 2: LM 710.4 — Galatians 4:4–7

Brothers and sisters: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. As proof that you are sons, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.]

ALLELUIA VERSE: LM 711.1, GR 412 — Cf. Luke 1:28, 42

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.

GOSPEL: LM 712.4 — Luke 1:26–38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

OFFERTORY: GR 419 — Cf. Luke 1:28, 42²

A/. Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

PRAYER OVER OFFERINGS: RM 1049

² English-language derivatives of the Offertory Chant are available in *Simple English Propers* [PDF] (Church Music Association of America); *Lumen Christi Simple Gradual* [PDF] (Illuminare Publications). For Masses that employ Gregorian chant according to the directives of the Church, page 13 of the *Offertoriale 1935* [PDF] contains ornate verses that may extend the Offertory chant past the antiphon in the *Graduale Romanum*.

Accept, O Lord, these offerings, and by your power change them into the Sacrament of salvation, in which, fulfilling the sacrifices of the Fathers, is offered the true Lamb, Jesus Christ your Son, born of the ever-Virgin Mary in a way beyond all telling. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

PREFACE: RM 590

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, and to praise, bless, and glorify your name in veneration of the Blessed ever-Virgin Mary. For by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit she conceived your Only Begotten Son, and without losing the glory of virginity, brought forth into the world the eternal light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of Heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim:

COMMUNION: RM 1049, GR 37 — Is 7:14; Vv: Psalm 19:2–7³

A/. Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name will be called Emmanuel.

[*V/.* The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands. *A/.*

V/. Day unto day conveys the message. and night unto night imparts the knowledge. *A/.*

V/. No speech, no word, whose voice goes unheeded; their sound goes forth through all the earth, their message to the utmost bounds of the world. *A/.*

V/. There he has placed a tent for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent, rejoices like a champion to run his course. *A/.*

V/. At one end of the heavens is the rising of the sun; to its furthest end it runs its course. There is nothing concealed from its burning heat. *A/.*

[*V/.* Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. *A/.*]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: RM 1049

³ English-language derivatives of the Communion Chant are available in *Simple English Propers* [\[PDF\]](#) (Church Music Association of America); *Lumen Christi Simple Gradual* [\[PDF\]](#) (Illuminare Publications); CommunionAntiphons.org [\[PDF\]](#); and other sources. For Masses that employ Gregorian chant according to the directives of the Church, the Church Music Association of America offers this Communion chant with verses [\[PDF\]](#) to extend the singing of the Communion chant beyond the antiphon found in the *Graduale Romanum*.

May the mysteries we have received, O Lord our God, always show forth your mercy in us, that we, who commemorate in faith the Mother of your Son, may be saved by his Incarnation. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.