

The Anglican Gradual And Sacramentary

Book Two: The Temporale

Part A: The Christmas Cycle

Section 2. Christmastide

Christmastide Propers

Date	Proper
24 December	1102 Vigil of Christmas II: Evening
24/25 December	1103 The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: First Celebration: The Midnight Mass of Christmas
25 December	1104 The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Second Celebration: The Dawn Mass of Christmas
	1105 The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Third Celebration: The Day Mass of Christmas
26 December	1106 St. Stephen
27 December	1107 St. John the Evangelist
28 December	1108 Holy Innocents
Sunday nearest 28 December	1109 First Sunday after Christmas
30 or 31 December	1111 Weekday in Christmastide I
31 December	1112 Vigil of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ
1 January	1113 The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ
2 or 3 January	1114 Weekday in Christmastide II
3 or 4 January	1115 Weekday in Christmastide III
Sunday nearest 4 January	1116 Second Sunday after Christmas: Feast of the Holy Family
4 or 5 January	1117 Weekday in Christmastide IV

Christmastide Notes

Christmastide traditionally begins with the Midnight Mass of Christmas on 24 December and continues through 5 January. This book continues an ancient tradition of three masses of Christmas Day, Midnight, Dawn, and Day. However, some parishes, especially those with young families and small children, find it necessary for pastoral reasons to have an earlier service on Christmas Eve. This book includes such a service, which is taken from the Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols in Book of Occasional Services. This service is suggested for late afternoon or early evening. It is not appropriate, however, to add a middle service between the early evening service and the Midnight Mass, because experience has shown that choir and clergy will be exhausted and unable to put into the Midnight Mass the effort it deserves. It would be better to encourage a larger attendance on Christmas Day.

The Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols, if not used on Christmas Eve, may be used at any appropriate time during the Christmas season.

It should be noted that although the Prayer book provides three propers for Christmas Day, it does not specify when, or in what order, they are to be used. In this book they are used as follows: The Midnight Mass uses the first selection in the Prayer book lectionary, but the second of the three collects, because of the phrase "this holy night." The Dawn Mass uses the second selection from the Prayer book lectionary, and the first of the three collects. The Day Mass uses the third selection from the Prayer book lectionary, and the third collect. This proper should always be used at the principal celebration on Christmas Day.

If any church has only the Midnight Mass and the Day Mass, it is suggested that the Midnight Mass use all 20 verses of St. Luke's Gospel, and that for the First Lesson and the Epistle, the first selection in the Prayer book lectionary be used in odd years, and the second selection in even years.