

Mary, Mother of God

Year A, B, C

January 1

Solemnity

Reading 1

Citation: Numbers, Chap. 6, Verses 22-27
Numbers 6: 22-27

The author says God is speaking but you take that task on as the voice of Moses. TAKE YOUR TIME!
Let each blessing statement stand on its own. Become God speaking (voice tone) only in the last line.

A reading from the Book of Numbers

The LORD said to Moses:

"Speak to Aaron and his sons
and tell them:

(short pause)
(commanding) (very short pause)
(short pause)

This is how you shall bless the Israelites.

(firm) (short pause)

Say to them:

The LORD bless you
and keep you!

(commanding) (very short pause)
[gentle voice – all blessing statements]
(very short pause)

The LORD let his face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you!

(very short pause)

The LORD look upon you kindly
and give you peace!

(short pause)

So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites,
and I will bless them."

(commanding) (very short pause)
(firm) (separate "will" and "bless")

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

Citation: Galatians, Chap. 4, verses 4-7
Galatians 4:4-7

St Paul's argument establishing the "sonship" of all humanity. He is passionate about this idea and presents it as forcefully as he can. Be Paul!

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians

Brothers and sisters:

(Get the Assembly's attention!)

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.

(very short pause)

(very short pause)

(almost parenthetical expression) (Pause)

As proof that you are sons,
God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying out,
“Abba,
Father!”

(short pause)

(very short pause)

(raise volume) (gentle tone)

(slightly louder) (Pause)

So
you are no longer a slave
but a son,
and if a son
then also an heir,
through God.

(very short pause)

(short pause)

(very short pause)

(very short pause)

(awe when saying “God”)

The Word of the Lord.

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GOSPEL

Citation: Luke, Chap. 2, Verses 16-21

Luke 2: 16-21

Luke is telling his story. The first part is exciting, surprising. The, Mary, keeping the secret – a quiet tone. Then the story gets exciting again but shifts to simple joy as the family celebrates the religious rites surrounding Jesus' circumcision.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem
and found Mary and Joseph,
and the infant lying
in the manger.

(separate the infant from the parents)
(very short pause)

When they saw this,
they made known the message that had been told them
about this child.

(urgency)

All who heard it were amazed
by what had been told them by the shepherds.

(tone of surprise)
(very short pause)

And Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them
in her heart.

(almost as an aside)

(very short pause)

Then the shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen,
just as it had been told to them.

(be joyful; overwhelmed)
(very short pause)

When eight days were completed
for his circumcision,
he was named Jesus,
the name given him by the angel
before he was conceived in the womb.

(almost parenthetical)
(very short pause)
(gradually increase "surprise")
(voice goes down; very proud)

The Gospel of the Lord.