

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024 | 5:00 PM | THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Holy Eucharist in the Celtic Tradition

This liturgy is adapted from "A Celtic Liturgy for Every Season" by Elizabeth Grover.



The people's response is in bold.

OPENING WORDS

The God of love is with us.

The Spirit of love is in us.

Blessed be the one God, whose prophets foretold the coming of the Light,
And blessed be the Son, whose coming we await.

THE LIGHTING OF THE THREE CANDLES

We light a light in the name of the Maker –

God who spoke in the silence and gave the gift of sound.

We light a light in the name of Christ –

Jesus, whose human ears heard the sounds of his Father's creation.

We light a light in the name of the Spirit –

The Holy One who speaks to us with a still, small voice.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, to you our hearts are open and our inmost desires known. We cannot hide our most intimate secrets from you. Be present at all times in our thoughts and hearts and purify, so that we may love you with the love of the Spirit and praise your name with humility and joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SILENCE

A chime of the singing bowl will signal the beginning.

A HYMN OF PRAISE

Let us praise the Holy One in the words of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior,
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the help of your servant Israel,
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and Sarah and their children for ever.

A PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

MICAH 5:2-5A

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Magnificat

by Geraldine Plunkett Dillon

A fold of Heaven's curtain swung aside
Splitting the blackness of the winter's night,
Blown by the breath of God it opens wide;
I saw the holy ones in companies
Led by archangels armoured for the fight;
I heard the shrill eternal symphonies.

I did not thrust my sorrow-twisted face
Amongst the splendours of the heavenly town
Nor walk misshapen with the forms of grace
Girded for battle in celestial wars;
And yet, my God, an angel has come down
And crowned me with the glory of the stars.

THE GOSPEL

LUKE 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

SILENCE

A chime of the singing bowl will signal the beginning.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The celebrant says

With prayers for a world waiting in hope, let us turn to the Lord, and we shall be saved.

The intercessor continues

For the Church, still waiting for unity, still hoping for renewal. May all the faithful be blessed by the sound of the Gospel proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

For all nations, still waiting for peace, still hoping for an end to war, still searching for common ground. May all peoples be blessed by the sound of understanding between clans and tribes, rulers and races.

Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

For those who have lost hope, still waiting for a job, still hoping for a cure, still searching for a place to call home. May those without joy this season be blessed by the sound of God's promise for them fulfilled.

Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

For travelers and visitors, families and friends, still waiting for welcome, still hoping for reconciliation, still searching for a way to mend what has been broken. May everyone we encounter this season be blessed by greetings of peace, compassion, and hospitality.

Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

For the thanksgivings of this life for all things wonderfully created, for your love and goodness. May we share the divine life of Jesus who humbled himself to share our humanity.

Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

For the sick and the dying and those who care for them, still waiting for results, still hoping for a miracle, still searching for courage and comfort, including those we now name, either silently or aloud. May all the sick be blessed by the sound of God's healing word and the strength of our prayers.

Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

For the dead – loved ones whom we miss this season, forgotten ones who died alone, innocent ones caught in the crossfire of violence, including those we now name either silently or aloud. May all who have died be blessed by the sound of God welcoming them home.

Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

The celebrant continues

You are near to us, Lord, as close to us as the child in the womb of her mother. And yet we wait in expectant hope for your coming. Attune our ears to hear your voice in all those we meet, and open our eyes to see your abiding presence in our world. Hear our prayers and make us turn to you that we may leap for joy at the sound of your saving Word, Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

As we await the coming of Jesus,
so we often wait for others to forgive us.
Our sin separates us from God and from one another.
Let us forgive our brothers and sisters
and confess our own sin together.

**God of all people, as we await once again
the birth of your love in our hearts,
we confess that we have lost sight of that love.
In this busy season we turn away from pain and poverty,
we avoid the sick and the lonely,
and we ignore the outcast and the oppressed.
Have mercy on us and give us the strength
to truly welcome Christ into our hearts
and live our lives according to your will.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

The Lord enrich us with grace,
and further us with heavenly blessing.
The Lord defend us in adversity and keep us from all evil.
The Lord receive our prayers
and graciously absolve us from our offenses. In God's name we pray. **Amen**

SILENCE

A chime of the singing bowl will signal the beginning.

SHARING THE PEACE

God makes peace within us.
Let us claim it.
God makes peace between us.
Let us share it.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

We encourage you to give your offering electronically today through our CoR App.

(Search Redeemer Cincy in your app store.) Or you may choose to give online via our secure online system located here: <https://redeemercincy.tpsdb.com/Give/offering> There are also two collection spots in the narthex (look for the Give Here signs) where you may deposit your offering safely.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God, who is Father of all life and of all sound. Though our days vanish like mist, and the sound of the earth fade away in the distance, still your Spirit is within all life, and every human soul is born in your likeness. And so with the whole created order, with the stars that silently glisten with life's glory, with the wind that howls and the gentle breeze that whispers, with the trumpets of heaven's messengers and the echo of each of the saints, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, O God, whose wisdom from above has inspired people through the ages to fulfill on earth your purposes - to hear the cry of the poor, to act with mercy, and to live together in gentleness and peace. We bless you for the coming of Jesus, who in life and in death embodied the law of love. By his rising again, he has saved our souls from despair, and by the gift of the Holy Spirit, Christ has given us courage and hope to face the forces of evil and death that rage around and within us. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same

way he took wine, and having given thanks for it, he gave the cup to his disciples, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering his eternal self-giving, we proclaim the mystery of Christ among us. Made one with him and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.

O God, whose generosity is unbounded and who wills that we should lack no good thing, sanctify this bread and this wine with your Holy Spirit, that it may be the Body and Blood of Christ. In receiving them we may be made whole again, strengthened not merely to hear the truth, but to do it, and be blessed in our doing; through Christ, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, world without end. **AMEN**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now say,
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

SILENCE

A chime of the singing bowl will signal the beginning.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Spirit we await is with us in the bread.
The voice of the Holy One speaks to us in the cup.

THE SHARING OF A HOLY MEAL

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us stand and join in thanking God for this holy meal

O God, we have heard your call to us,
and we have responded by gathering in your name
to await your voice.

Help us to listen to your presence
in silence and in sound - the voices of your people,
the noises of your animals, the music of creation -
that, reconnected with you and one another through this holy meal
we may hear the voice which calls us home to you
our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen

SILENCE

A chime of the singing bowl will signal the beginning.

Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world, we extinguish this light.
But we will carry the light in our hearts and we pray that as we go about our work in the
world, we will shine with the love of God. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the Wonderful Counselor guide you,
the Mighty God protect you
the Everlasting Father be with you,
and the Prince of Peace comfort you.
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon you now and ever more. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth with joy to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Celebrant & Preacher..... The Rev. Dr. Herschel Wade
Lector
Lay Reader.....
Intercessor Robin Henderson
Celtic Guild..... Pam Popp
Bread Guild..... Hollis Bass
Altar Guild Missy Darling, Emily Esslinger, Amanda Rasche, Sarah Kate Rasche
Flower Guild Angela Lyman, Vicky Carroll

The FLOWERS that beautify our worship spaces are given to the glory of God in loving memory of JoAnn Black by Stephaine Hughes, Rick Ciambro, Magen & Christian and in thanksgiving of Leslie Martin's birthday by Kevin & Carolyn Martin.

Make a Christmas offering that enables the work of our Flower Guild in beautifying the space. Please consider making a special Christmas Flower gift in thanksgiving or memory of a loved one. To give electronically, use the QR Code at right or pick up one of the Flower envelopes in the Narthex.

