

**Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony**  
**Third Sunday-Hope for those who are watching!**

L: Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

**R: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

L: Grant us vision to behold your glory.

**R: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

L: Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

**R: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

L: Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion and grace.

**R: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

L: For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst;

**R: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

**Christ, Be Our Light!**

*A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent*

Words and Music by  
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**Congregation:**

The musical score is written for a congregation and consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: "Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered to - day." The music is simple and melodic, suitable for a church service.

L: This morning we light 3 candles. The **1<sup>st</sup> candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **2<sup>nd</sup> candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **3<sup>rd</sup> candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God as we await our Savior's promised coming.

**Light Candles**

**Closing Prayer:** God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory. We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today. We confess at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory. We stand awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT LITURGY**  
**INTRODUCTORY RITE**

**Celebrant:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Response: Amen.**

**Celebrant:** Lord, bless us with the wisdom to praise You in spirit and in truth, so that by following Your holy we will gain eternal salvation.

**Response: Amen.**

**THE PENITENTIAL RITE**

C: My dear brothers and sisters let us confess our sins to God and prepare ourselves that we may worthily participate in this Holy Sacrifice. Please now make an examination of your conscience.

### **Confiteor**

Almighty Father, You know my deepest secrets. I confess that I have, through my own fault, sinned against Your holy laws, *(striking the breast three times)* in my thoughts, in my words and in what I have done or failed to do. I sincerely regret my sins and I am truly sorry for offending You. I ask, Father, that in Your mercy You pardon my sins. I promise to change my way of living so that through a deeper holiness I may better serve You throughout the rest of my life. I ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the saints and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord, our God.

**C:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

**R: Amen.**

**C:** May our Lord Jesus Christ absolve you and, with His authority vested in me, I absolve you from all your sins: in the name of the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**R: Amen.**

### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

**Psalm 85:6-7; 90:14**

**C:** Will You be angry with us forever, drag out Your anger for all generations? Please give us life again, that Your people may rejoice in You.

**R:** Fill us at daybreak with Your love, that all our days we may sing for joy.

**C:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**R:** As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### **KYRIE**

**C:** Lord, have mercy. **R:** Lord, have mercy.

**C:** Christ, have mercy. **R:** Christ, have mercy.

**C:** Lord, have mercy. **R:** Lord, have mercy.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. [pause briefly] Loving Father, as we prepare for the coming of Your Son, teach us what we are to do so that we, who joyously await Him, may serve You faithfully. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### **First Reading**

**Zephaniah 3: 14-18**

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm****Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5, 6**

R: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation. R:

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name. R:

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel! R:

**Second Reading****Philippians 4: 4-7**

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamations****Isaiah 61: 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Gospel****Luke 3: 10-18**

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people. This is the Gospel of the Lord

**SACRAMENT OF THE WORD OF GOD****PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one

being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, by the power of the Holy Spirit. He was born of the Virgin Mary, **AND BECAME MAN**. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of 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 and giver of life who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son, He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Celebrant: The coming of the Lord is near. We have been encouraged to ask for anything we need, “with prayer and thanksgiving.” Therefore, let us pray to the Father.**

L: Our response is “Lord hear our prayer.”

L: For our Prime Bishop, Bishops and Pastors of our Church, that they may guide us with sound doctrine, let us pray to the Lord.

L: For our Holy Family Parish, that we embrace the preparations necessary for the coming of our Lord, Let us pray to the Lord.

L: For those who live in poverty, that they may know the comforting message of the Word, let us pray to the Lord.

L: For those who are suffering this Advent Season because of violence, illness or loss, may they receive the merciful fortitude given by our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

L: For the increase of sacred vocations in our Church, so that each parish have a pastor to serve them, let us pray to the Lord.

L: For the souls of the faithful departed, that they may come to eternal life with Christ, especially, N. let us pray to the Lord.

**Celebrant: Most loving Father, hear the prayers of your people. Guide the world in true peace and let us serve you in faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

### **OFFERTORY VERSE**

Do to others as you would have them do to you. **Luke 6: 31**

### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

God, our Father, as we await the coming of Your Son, receive these gifts we offer. Teach us to use them for Your glory in service to all. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### **PREFACE-THE GREAT THANKSGIVING SANCTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed + is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

### **Eucharistic Prayer III**

We acclaim You, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal Your wisdom and love. You have formed us in Your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to You, our Creator, we might rule and serve all Your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from You, You did not abandon us to the power of death. In Your mercy You came to our help, so that in seeking You we might find You. Again, and again, You called us into covenant with You and through the prophets You taught us to hope for salvation. Gracious God, You loved the world so much that in the fullness of time You sent Your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, He lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor He proclaimed the Good News of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill Your purpose, He gave Himself up to death and, rising from the grave, destroyed death and made the whole creation new. And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Him Who died and rose for us, He sent the Holy Spirit, His own first gift for those who believe, to complete His work in the world and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. When the hour had come for Him to be glorified, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. At supper with them He took bread; and when He had given thanks to You, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, and said: Take this, all of you, and eat it: **FOR THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.** After supper He took the cup of wine and, when He had given thanks, He gave it to them and said: Take this, all of you, and drink from it: **FOR THIS IS THE CUP OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT, WHICH SHALL BE SHED FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.** As often as you do this, do it in remembrance of Me. We now celebrate the memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and descent among the dead, proclaiming His resurrection and ascension to Your right hand, awaiting His coming in glory and offering to You from the gifts You have given us, this Bread and this Cup, we praise You and bless You.

#### *The celebrant and people say*

**We praise You; we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, Lord, our God.** We pray that in Your goodness and mercy Your Holy Spirit may descend upon us and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for Your holy people, the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, the Body and Blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this Bread and this Cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ to the praise of Your name. Remember Your One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, redeemed by the Blood of Your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember Anthony, our Prime Bishop, John our Bishop, and all who minister in Your Church. Remember all Your people and those who seek Your truth. Bring them into the place of eternal joy and light. And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with our ancestors in faith, with the prophets, apostles and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with You in ages past. We praise You in union with them and give You glory through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

#### *Holding the Sacred Host above the Chalice, he elevates them and sings.*

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ all honor and glory are Yours, Creator of all, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

## COMMUNION RITE

C: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

C: Deliver us Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In Your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**R: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and forever.**

### Breaking of the Bread

C: The Cup of Blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ?

C: The Bread which we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ?

**R: Because there is one Bread, we who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one Bread.**

C: May the union of divinity and humanity in Jesus Christ bring us sanctification and eternal life.

**R: Amen.**

C: Lord Jesus Christ, You said to Your apostles: I leave you peace, My peace I give you. Do not look at our sins, but on the faith of Your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of Your kingdom where You live for ever and ever. Amen.

C: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R: And also, with you.**

C: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

*Give a nod or a wave of hand as a sign of peace*

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, Your death brought life to the world. Your holy Body and Blood free me from all my sins and from every evil.

Keep me faithful to Your teaching and never let me be parted from You.

C: I will take the Bread of Heaven and call upon the name of the Lord.

*The celebrant and congregation together say only once:*

Lord, I am not worthy to receive You, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

May the Body of Christ bring me to everlasting life.

May the Blood of Christ bring me to everlasting life.

## THE COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

This is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to the table of the Lord.

C: Lord, may I possess with a pure heart that which I have taken as food,  
and may the Gift I have received bring me healing and strength now and  
forever

### **COMMUNION VERSE**

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

**Isaiah 12: 6**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. [pause briefly] Almighty God, through this Holy Eucharist give us the graced properly  
prepare for the celebration of the birth of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Open our eyes that we  
may see His presence; open our ears that we may hear His call; open our hearts that we may rejoice  
in Him. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### **CONCLUDING RITE**

**C:** The Lord be with you.

**R:** **And also, with you.**

**C:** May the Almighty God bless you in the name of the Father + the Son+ and the Holy Spirit.

**R:** **Amen**

**C:** Let us bless the Lord

**R:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Opening Hymn**

### **“O Come Divine Messiah”**

Refrain: Sweet Savior haste; Come, come to earth, Dispel the night and show Thy face, and bid us  
hail the dawn of grace. O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day. When hope  
shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.

O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph, And  
sadness flee away. **R:**

O Thou, whom nations sigh for, Whom priests and prophets long foretold, Wilt break the captive  
fettters; Redeem the long-lost fold. **R:**

### **Closing Hymn**

### **“Baptized in Water”**

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit cleansed by the blood of Christ our king; heirs of salvation,  
trusting his promise – faithfully now God’s praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king; one with his rising,  
freed and forgiven thankfully now God’s praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king; born of one Father,  
we are his children – joyfully now God’s praise we sing.