

Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony
Fourth Sunday-Hope for those who are wounded!

L: Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.

R: Come, Lord, and make all things new!

L: For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward.

R: Come, Lord, and make all things new!

L: For any bitterness that scratches our soul.

R: Come, Lord, and make all things new!

L: For relationships left in decay and neglect.

R: Come, Lord, and make all things new!

L: For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others.

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 today." The music is simple and suitable for a group of people to sing.

L: This morning we light 4 candles.

The **1st candle** is the light of hope for those in times of waiting. The **2nd candle** is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The **3rd candle** is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The **4th candle** is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of life. Today we acknowledge our pain and the pain we have caused others. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

Light Candles

Closing Prayer: Merciful God, Advent reminds us that You left heaven's majesty to walk among wounded people in a broken world. We thank You that Your love knows no boundaries or limitations. No wounds of this earth is greater than the wounds You came to heal. For all who suffer this day, light the way, O Lord, towards the promise of healing and wholeness made known to You. Amen.

FOURTH 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

Micah 5: 1

C: But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah,

R: From you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel.
Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.

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] Heavenly Father, You filled Your servant Elizabeth with Your Holy Spirit as she greeted the Mother of our Lord. Fill us now with Your grace that we too may rejoice in Your salvation. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Micah 5: 1-4a

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from

ancient times. Therefore, the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace. This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 80

R: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power and come to save us. R:

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong. R:

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name. R:

Second Reading

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.' "First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamations

Luke 1: 38

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 1: 39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." 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: For the salvation of the world, Christ came to do His Father's will. In her trust in God, Mary conformed herself to that same will. Let us unite in prayer, accepting the will of our Father.

L: Our response is "Lord hear our prayer".

L: That Christ, obedient to His Father, may guide all members of the Church to trust in God's promises, let us pray to the Lord.

L: That Christ, in peace may silence the thunder of strife and war, let us pray to the Lord.

L: That Christ who lived so humbly among us, may draw us closer to the poor, the lonely and the neglected in the Christmas Season, let us pray to the Lord.

L: That we have an increase of vocations in our Church, let us pray to the Lord.

L: That Christ, blessed fruit of the Virgin's womb, may teach us to love and honor His Mother in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.

L: That Christ the shepherd of His people may bring the departed into His kingdom, especially N., let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Almighty God, Your Son came to do Your will, to make all things new. May our prayers extend His kingdom of mercy, peace and justice. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

OFFERTORY VERSE

I see Him, though not now; I behold Him, though not near: A star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel. **Numbers 24: 17a**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O God, You showed the world the splendor of Your glory in the coming of Your Son, born of the Virgin Mary. May we worthily offer this Holy Sacrifice and celebrate the mystery of God-made-man. 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

Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name Him Immanuel. **Isaiah 7 14**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. [pause briefly] O God, most gracious Father, the mystery of Your eternal Word took flesh on earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life in Your service. Through this Eucharist may we receive the Spirit to help us prepare for His coming in truth, faith and love. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of 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.