

Holy Communion with Holy Baptism, Sunday 3rd December 2023

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
and also with you.

Welcome, Introduction & Advent Candle

Candle liturgy

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the coming of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation. (First candle is lit.)

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. **Amen**

Hymn 336 Jesus Where'er Thy People Meet

1 Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
there they behold thy mercy-seat;
where'er they seek thee thou art found,
and every place is hallowed ground.

2 For thou, within no walls confined,
inhabitest the humble mind;
such ever bring thee when they come,
and, going, take thee to their home.

3 Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few,
thy former mercies here renew;
here to our waiting hearts proclaim
the sweetness of thy saving name.

4 Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heaven before our eyes.

5 Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear:
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts thine own!

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.

Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fulness of life. Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy, and confess that we need forgiveness.

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour and let your anger cease from us.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

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

First Reading: Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 80

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦
you that led Joseph like a flock;
- 2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ♦
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
- 3 Stir up your mighty strength ♦
and come to our salvation.
- 4 Turn us again, O God; ♦
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 5 O Lord God of hosts, ♦
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

- 6 You feed them with the bread of tears; ♦
you give them abundance of tears to drink.
- 7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ♦
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 8 Turn us again, O God of hosts; ♦
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, ♦
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.
- 19 And so will we not go back from you; ♦
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.
- 20 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; ♦
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be evermore. Amen

Hymn 132 Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending

1.Lo, he comes with clouds descending
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

2.Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
we who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy,
let us all thine Advent see.

3.Those dear tokens of his Passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O Come quickly, O Come quickly, O Come quickly,
Everlasting God come down !

Holy Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark:

(Mark 13: 24-37)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he* is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Thought for the Day

The Presentation

We welcome Cuán who come to be baptized. I invite his sponsors to present him now.

The sponsors answer

We present Cuán to be baptized.

Parents and godparents, will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing Cuán for baptism and answer on his behalf. By your own prayers and example, by your teaching and love, will you encourage him in the life and faith of the Christian community?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism this child begins his journey in faith. You speak for him today. Will you care for him, and help him to take his place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism, God calls us from darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?

I come to Christ.

The presiding minister says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.

Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers
We will support them.

The Baptism

Praise God who made heaven and earth.
Who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life. With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your Kingdom.

Thanks be to God.

And now we give you thanks that you have called Cuán your servant to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism. Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that he who is baptized in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection.

May he die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue for ever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister shall ask the following question of each candidate for baptism, or, in the case of those unable to answer for themselves, the sponsors of each candidate:

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which Cuán is to be baptized?

I do.

The presiding minister addresses the congregation.

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess, together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The presiding minister baptizes by pouring water over the candidate, saying

Cuán, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross.

Live as a disciple of Christ, fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

**Confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
look for his coming in glory.**

God has called you into his Church.

The congregation joins the minister, saying

**We therefore receive and welcome you
as a member with us of the body of Christ,
as a child of the one heavenly Father,
and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

The Peace

We are the body of Christ. By one spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life together.

The presiding minister says

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Hymn 119 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

3. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Celebrating at the Lord's Table

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us; nourish your people with the word of life, and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Taking of the Bread and Wine

Stand. The Presiding Minister takes the bread and wine and may say

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us

therefore let us celebrate the feast.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father, Lord of all creation, we praise you for your goodness and your love. When we turned away you did not reject us. You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened wide his arms upon the cross and, with love stronger than death, he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer, on the night before you died you came to table with your friends. Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying,

Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the bread of life.

At the end of supper you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the true vine.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:

dying, you destroyed our death, rising, you restored our life; Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come upon us now; may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us, who know our need of grace, one in Christ, our risen Lord.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity: with your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise and lift our voice to join the song of heaven, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

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.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The presiding minister breaks the consecrated bread in preparation for the Communion.

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The Administration of Holy Communion

The Great Silence

Prayer after Communion

God our deliverer, Awaken our hearts to prepare the way for the advent of your Son, that, with minds purified by the grace of his coming, we may serve you faithfully all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty God,

we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Blessing

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 593 O Jesus I Have Promised

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me, my Master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my
guide.
2. O let me feel thee near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.
3. O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

5. O let me see thy foot-marks, and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my friend

The Dismissal

The presiding minister may give each of the newly baptized a lighted candle. The newly baptized are sent out with these words:

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us
a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
in the name of Christ. Amen.