

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Phil 4: 4-5  
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

### ENTRANCE HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.

*R: Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel,  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vic'try o'er the grave.

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou key of David, come  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the Law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

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

People: **Amen.**

Grace to you and peace from God our  
Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**And with your spirit.**

### PENITENTIAL ACT

Brethren (Brothers and sisters),  
let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to  
celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17th December 2023



Lord Jesus, you feed us with your  
body and blood: Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### The absolution by the Priest follows:

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

**Amen.**

### COLLECT

O God, who see how your people  
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's  
Nativity, enable us, we pray,  
to attain the joys of so great a  
salvation and to celebrate them  
always with solemn worship and glad  
rejoicing.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your  
Son, who lives and reigns with you in  
the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for  
ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

SIT

### FIRST READING 61:1-2.10-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

The spirit of the Lord has been given  
to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me  
He has sent me to bring good news  
to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the  
Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments  
of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of  
integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things  
grow,

as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity  
and praise

spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Lk 1:46-50.53-54.R.Is61:10**

### R. My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her  
nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me  
blessed. (R)

2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R)

3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R)

**SECOND READING** 5:16-24

**A reading from the first letter of  
St Paul to the Thessalonians**

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



**ACCLAMATION** Lk4:18

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The spirit of the Lord  
has been given to me.**

**He has sent me to bring good news  
to the poor.**

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

1:6-8.19-28

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy  
Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**



A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe  
through him.

He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, "I am not the Christ." "Well then," they asked, "are you Elijah?" "I am not," he said. "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?" So John said, "I am, as Isaiah prophesied:  
a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord."  
Now these men had been sent by

the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, "Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?" John replied, "I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap." This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial  
with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
(All bow during the next three lines)  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate  
of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with 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,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and  
the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is  
adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection  
of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**



**Raising the host, the priest says:**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all  
creation, for through your goodness  
we have received the bread we offer  
you: fruit of the earth and work of  
human hands,

it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**The priest pours wine and a little water  
into the chalice, saying quietly:**

By the mystery of this water and wine  
may we come to share in the divinity  
of Christ,  
who humbled himself to share in our  
humanity.

**Raising the chalice, the priest says:**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all  
creation, for through your goodness  
we have received the wine we offer  
you: fruit of the vine and work of  
human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Bowing the priest says quietly:**

With humble spirit and contrite heart  
may we be accepted by you, O Lord,  
and may our sacrifice in your sight  
this day be pleasing to you, O Lord.

**Then the priest washes his hands, saying  
quietly:**

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity;  
and cleanse me from my sin.



**Facing the people the priest says:**

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at  
your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all  
his holy Church.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord,  
we pray, be offered to you  
unceasingly, to complete what was  
begun in sacred mystery and  
powerfully accomplish for us your  
saving work.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III***  
***PREFACE I of Advent***

The Lord be with you.

**And with your Spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For he assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope. And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
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.**

**(KNEEL)**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name. Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and ✠ Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

**DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

**The mystery of faith:  
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

*Then the Priest, with hands extended, says:*

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ. May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs (with Saint **N.**, the Saint of the day or Patron Saint) and with all the

Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant Francis, our Pope, and N. our Bishop, his assistant Bishop(s) the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,

whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world. To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory

*The Priest joins his hands.*

through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good. †

*The Priest takes the chalice and the paten with the host and, elevating both, he says:*

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION RITE**

**(STAND)**

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours, now and for ever.**





Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give  
you, look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and  
unity in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you  
always.

**And with your Spirit.**

*The priest may add these or similar words.*

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*The priest places a small piece of the host in  
the chalice saying quietly:*

May this mingling of the body and  
blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
bring eternal life to us who receive it.

*Meanwhile the people sing or say:*

**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.**

**(KNEEL)**

*The priest says quietly:*

May the receiving of your Body and  
Blood, Lord Jesus Christ,  
not bring me to judgment and  
condemnation,  
but through your loving mercy  
be for me protection in mind and body,  
and a healing remedy.

*Raising the host the priest says:*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of  
the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper  
of the Lamb.

*And together with the people he says once:*

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

May the Body of Christ  
keep me safe for eternal life.



*The Priest reverently consumes the Body of  
Christ.*

*Then he takes the chalice and says quietly:*

May the Blood of Christ  
keep me safe for eternal life.

*The Priest raises a host slightly and shows it  
to each of the communicants, saying:*

The Body of Christ.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** *Is 35: 4*

**Say to the faint of heart:**

**Be strong and do not fear.**

**Behold, our God will come,  
and he will save us.**



### COMMUNION HYMN

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green;  
he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again;  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For thou art with me, and thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes,  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house for evermore  
My dwelling place shall be.

### PRIVATE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

My Jesus, present in my soul,  
I thank you for the way in which you  
gradually prepared the minds of men  
and women for your coming.  
Give me now all the longing desires of  
your saints in the Old Testament.  
Help me to prepare for the feast of  
your birth as Mary your mother  
prepared for the first Christmas.  
Help me to imitate her prayer, her  
spotless purity,  
so that this Advent may make me  
more ready to receive you,  
and more alert to watch for your  
second coming at the end of time.

**STAND**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord,  
that this divine sustenance may  
cleanse us of our faults  
and prepare us for the coming feasts.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

May the almighty and merciful God,  
by whose grace you have placed your  
faith in the First Coming of his Only  
Begotten Son and yearn for his  
coming again sanctify you by the  
radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich  
you with his blessing.  
**Amen.**

As you run the race of this present life,  
may he make you firm in faith,  
joyful in hope and active in charity.  
**Amen.**

So that you, rejoicing now with  
devotion at our Redeemer's coming in  
the flesh, you may be endowed with  
the rich reward of eternal life  
when he comes again in majesty.  
**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the  
Holy Spirit, come down on you and  
remain with you for ever.  
**Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended,  
**Thanks be to God.**

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

**God's Spirit is in my heart.  
He has called me and set me apart.  
This is what I have to do,  
what I have to do.**

*He sent me to give the Good News  
to the poor,  
tell prisoners that they are prisoners  
no more,  
tell blind people that they can see,  
and set the downtrodden free,  
and go tell ev'ryone  
the news that the Kingdom of God  
has come,  
and go tell ev'ryone  
the news that God's kingdom has  
come.*