

Fourth Sunday of Advent

INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN—**10** *New English Hymnal*

The ADVENT CANDLE is lit. The priest says:
Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary. Grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

All respond: **Blessed be God for ever.**

In the name of the Father,
and of ✠ the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All respond: **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought,
word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as
ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you ✠ from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEÏSON *is sung.*

Kyrie, eleïson. (× 3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*

Christe, eleïson. (× 3) *(Christ, have mercy.)*

Kyrie, eleïson. (× 3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*

All remain standing for the COLLECT.

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING *Mic 5.2-5a*

A reading from the prophet Micah.

The Lord says to his people: But 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 labour 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

R/. My soul rejoices in my God. (*All repeat*)

My soul glorifies the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
For he has looked with favour
upon the lowliness of his servant. R/.

And so from this day forward
all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me,
and holy is his name. R/.

His mercy is from age to age
upon those who fear him.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit. R/.

He has cast down the mighty from their
thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things
and sends the rich empty away. R/.

He protects his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy:
the mercy he promised to our fathers:
to Abraham and his children for ever. R/.

SECOND READING

Heb 10.5–10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book, it is written of me).’ When Christ said, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia.

The virgin shall conceive and bear a son:
his name shall be Emmanuel, ‘God is with us’
Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Lk 1.39–45

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A SERMON *may follow.*

All *stand* to recite the NICENE CREED.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We 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, *(all bow)* was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. *(all rise)* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again 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.

We 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 worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

The INTERCESSIONS are introduced, and all kneel. One of these responses may be used:

∨. Lord, hear us. R̄. Lord, graciously hear us.
or ∨. Lord, in your mercy, R̄. Hear our prayer.

At the Commemoration of the Departed:

∨. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;
R̄. And let light perpetual shine upon them.

The Intercessions end:

Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers, for the sake of your
Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All *stand* as the priest introduces the PEACE.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN— **11**

The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS.

Pray, my 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 Church.

Lord, may the power of the Spirit, which sanctified Mary the mother of your Son, make holy the gifts we place upon this altar. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 him thanks and praise.

The PREFACE follows.

All respond with the SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.

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.

All kneel. After the Consecration, all acclaim: Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory (× 2).

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:

... for ever and ever. Amen.

RITE OF COMMUNION

The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.

**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 priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is sung.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.**

The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Holy Communion is distributed.

The priest says the POST-COMMUNION prayer.

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUSION

The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

... The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN— **465**

The service may be followed by the ANGELUS.

℣. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

℞. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death.**

℣. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

℞. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary ...

℣. And the Word was made flesh:

℞. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary ...

℣. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:

℞. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross ✠ be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**