

Fourth Sunday of Advent



*"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home."*

(Cycle A)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Opening Hymn

Saint Joseph, Jesus' Guardian Strong



1. Saint Jo - seph, Je - sus' guard - ian strong and
2. On learn - ing Mar - y was with child, in
3. When Her - od sought to kill the Child, an
4. Saint Jo - seph, faith - filled car - pen - ter, pro -



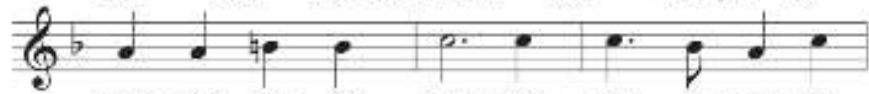
fos - ter fa - ther kind, you cared for fam - 'ly
faith and doubt you prayed. Then, in a dream, God's
an - gel spoke once more, You fled to E - gypt,
vid - er - wise and just, you faced the fu - ture



ten - der - ly, your life with theirs en - twined.
an - gel spoke; you lis - tened and o - beyed.
know - ing not what fu - ture lay in store.
un - a - fraid, with con - fi - dence and trust,



Help us, like you, to serve our kin and
When we must make a cru - cial choice, let
Still ex - iles leave their homes by night, in
Now hear the Church that calls on you as



neigh - bor here in need, May mer - cy move our
us, too, pray for light that, o - ver - com - ing
per - il forced to flee. Per - suade us now to
pa - tron, guide, and friend; lead us, like you, to




minds and hearts to love in word and deed.
qualms and fears, we dare to choose what's right.
shel - ter them, up - hold their dig - ni - ty.
live in hope, on God a - lone de - pend,


Closing Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

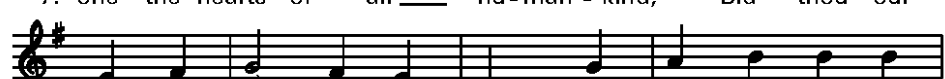
Verses



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
 2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who
 3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who
 4. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se's stem, From
 5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And
 6. O come, Thou Day-spring from on high And
 7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In

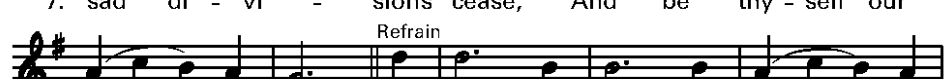


1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in
 2. or - d'rest all things might - i - ly; To us the
 3. to thy tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient
 4. ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them That trust thy
 5. o - pen wide our heav - 'nly home; Make safe the
 6. cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the
 7. one the hearts of all hu - man - kind; Bid thou our




1. lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of
 2. path of knowl - edge show, And teach us in her
 3. times didst give the law, In cloud and maj - es -
 4. might - y pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry
 5. way that leads on high, And close the path to
 6. gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ow
 7. sad di - vi - sions cease, And be thy - self our

Refrain



1. God ap - pear. Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u -
 2. ways to go.
 3. ty and awe.
 4. o'er the grave.
 5. mis - er - y.
 6. put to flight.
 7. Prince of Peace.



el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Greeting

∇. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

∇. The grace and peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

R. And also with you.

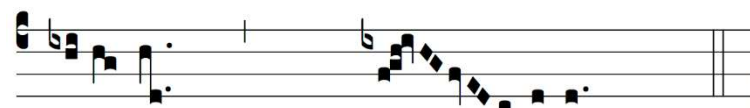
PENITENTIAL RITE

Invitation to reflect on our faults and failings.

∇ To prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our faults and failings and ask our heavenly Father in his mercy for his healing and forgiveness.

Pause for silent reflection.

∇ Lord Jesus, you are Mighty God and Prince of Peace:



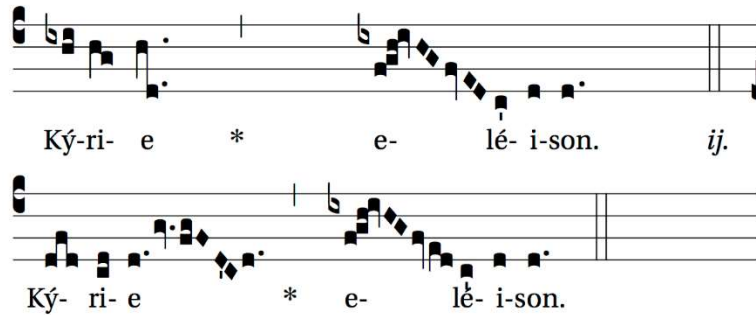
Ký-ri- e * e- lé- i-son. ij.

∇ Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:



Chris-te e- lé- i-son. iij.

Ÿ You will come in glory with salvation for your people:



Ký-ri- e * e- lé- i-son. ij.
Ký- ri- e * e- lé- i-son.

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

R. Amen.

The Gloria is not said during the Sundays of Advent

Opening Prayer

Father, all-powerful God,
your eternal Word took flesh on our earth
when the Virgin Mary placed her life
at the service of your plan.

Lift our minds in watchful hope
to hear the voice which announces his glory
and open our minds to receive the Spirit
who prepares for his coming.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1 (Is 7:10-14)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying:
Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God;
let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
in this sacrament
we receive the promise of salvation;
as Christmas draws near
make us grow in faith and love
to celebrate the coming of Christ our Savior,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITES

Prayer over the People (3)

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Lord,
may all Christian people both know and cherish
the heavenly gifts they have received.

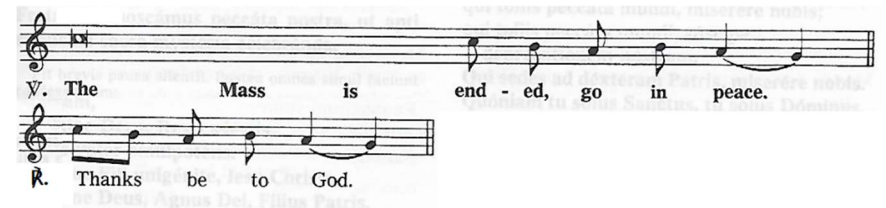
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

R. Amen.

Ÿ. And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come upon you and remain with you for ever.

R. Amen.

Dismissal



Ÿ. The Mass is end - ed, go in peace.
R. Thanks be to God.
Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.

Communion Meditation

Come, Dear Christ, Your World Awaits



1. Come, dear Christ, your world a - waits.
2. Morn - ing Star with dia - mond fire,
3. O - pen heav'ns and rain down dew.
4. Si - lent in the Vir - gin's womb,
5. Come, dear Christ, with ten - der care,



Speak a - loud, in - car - nate Word.
shine in ra - diance through our night.
Show - er jus - tice on the earth.
God in full di - vin - i - ty,
here in ea - ger hearts to dwell.



Long - ing earth an - tic - i - pates:
Ur - gent now with hope's de - sire
Parched and trou - bled lands, re - new
come to fill each lone - ly room
An - swer now our Ad - vent prayer:



let your cry for peace be heard.
yearn - ing peo - ples seek your light.
by a right - eous Sav - ior's birth.
by your blest na - tiv - i - ty.
come to us, Em - man - u - el.

But Ahaz answered,
"I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!"
Then Isaiah said:
Listen, O house of David!
Is it not enough for you to weary people,
must you also weary my God?
Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel.

V. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (*Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6.*)



R. Let the Lord en - ter; he is king of glo - ry.

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?
or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,
a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Reading 2 (Rom 1:1-7)

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus,
called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God,
which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy
Scriptures,
the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh,
but established as Son of God in power
according to the Spirit of holiness
through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him we have received the grace of apostleship,
to bring about the obedience of faith,
for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles,
among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ;
to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ÿ. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Mt 1:23)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Exchange of Peace

Ÿ. The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And also with you.

Ÿ. Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

Breaking of the Bread

As the bread is broken, we sing or say:

A - gnus De - i, * qui tol - lis peccá - ta mundi : mi - se - ré - re no - bis. Agnus De - i, * qui tol - lis peccá - ta mundi : mi - se - ré - re no - bis. Agnus De - i, * qui tol - lis peccá - ta mundi : do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Ÿ. This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

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

To those receiving Communion, the celebrant says:

Ÿ. The body of Christ.

R. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

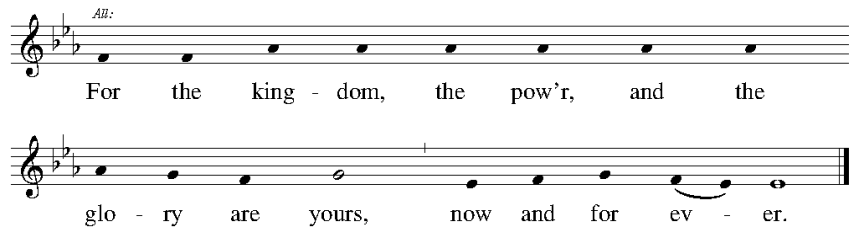
The Lord's Prayer

℣. We pray confidently in the words our Savior taught us:



Our Fa-ther, who art in heav-en, hal-lowed be thy name;
thy king-dom come; thy will be done on earth as it
is in heav-en. Give us this day our dai-ly bread;
and for-give us our tres-pass-es as we for-give
those who tres-pass a-gainst us; and lead us not
in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e-vil.

℣. 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.



All:
For the king-dom, the pow'r, and the
glo-ry are yours, now and for ev-er.

℣. Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles: I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on 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.

Gospel (Mt 1:18-24)

℣. The Lord be with you.

℣. And also with you.

℣. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The celebrant and the people mark a cross on their foreheads (mind), their lips (speech) and over their hearts, asking the Lord to open them to his Word.

℣. Glory to you Lord.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,* which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

℣. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

℣. Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.

Homily

Nicene Creed

XVII. s.

Credo in unum De-um, Patrem omni-pot-éntem,
 factó-rem caeli et terrae, vi-si-bí-li-um ó-mni-um, et in-
 vi-si-bí-li-um. Et in unum Dómi-num Ie-sum Christum,
 Fí-li-um De-i u-ni-gé-ni-tum. Et ex Patre na-tum ante
 ó-mni-a saé-cu-la. De-um de De-o, lumen de lúmi-ne,
 De-um ve-rum de De-o ve-ro. Gé-ni-tum, non fa-ctum, con-
 substanti-á-lem Patri : per quem ó-mni-a fa-cta sunt. Qui
 propter nos hó-mi-nes, et propter nostram sa-lú-tem descén-
 dit de cae-lis. Et incarná-tus est de Spí-ri-tu Sancto ex
 Ma-rí-a Ví-rgi-ne : Et homo factus est. Cru-ci-fí-xus
 ét-i-am pro no-bis : sub Pónti-o Pi-lá-to passus, et se-púl-

(Sanctus XVIII Deus Genitor Alme)

Sanctus, * Sanctus, Sanctus Dómi-nus De-us
 Sá-ba-oth. Ple-ni sunt cae-li et terra gló-ri-a
 tu-a. Ho-sánna in excélsis. Bene-díctus qui ve-nit
 in nó-mi-ne Dó-mi-ni. Ho-sánna in excél-sis.

Eucharistic Prayer (IV)

The celebrant prays the Eucharistic Prayer. After the consecration, the celebrant sings:

Ÿ. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

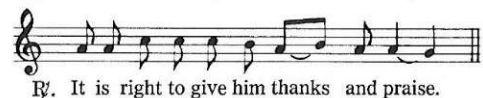
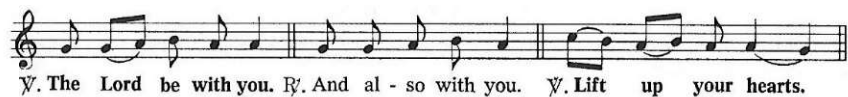
Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death, ris - ing you re -
 stored our life. Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry.

The celebrant concludes the Eucharistic Prayer.

Ÿ. Through him, with him and in him
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit
 all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father
 Forever and ever.

A - men, A - men, A - men.

Preface and *Sanctus* (Advent II)



The celebrant recites or sings the Preface:

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

His future coming was proclaimed by all the prophets.
The virgin mother bore him in her womb with love beyond all telling.
John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ has filled us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven
we proclaim your glory
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

tus est. Et re-surré-xit tér-ti-a di-e, se-cúndum Scri-

ptú-ras. Et ascéndit in cae-lum: se-det ad dèxte-ram Pa-

tris. Et í-te-rum ventú-rus est cum gló-ri-a, iu-di-cá-re

vi-vos et mórtu-os: cu-ius regni non e-rit fi-nis. Et in

Spí-ri-tum Sanctum, Dómi-num, et vi-vi-fi-cántem: qui ex

Patre Fi-li-óque pro-cé-dit. Qui cum Patre et Fi-li-o

simul ad-o-rá-tur, et conglo-ri-fi-cá-tur: qui lo-cú-tus est

per Prophé-tas. Et unam sanctam cathó-li-cam et a-po-

stó-li-cam Ecclé-si-am. Confi-te-or unum ba-ptisma

in remissi-ó-nem pecca-tó-rum. Et expécto re-surre-

cti-ó-nem mortu-ó-rum. Et vi-tam ventú-ri saé-cu-li.

A-men.

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, one in Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
All bow at these two lines
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, died, 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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He 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.

General Intercessions

The celebrant invites the congregation to pray and offers several prayer intentions. Each concludes, "We pray to the Lord."



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offering of the Gifts

☩. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

℟. Blessed be God for ever.

☩. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

℟. Blessed be God for ever.

Prayer over the Gifts

☩. Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice 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 the mother of your Son
make holy the gifts we place upon this altar.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

℟. Amen.