

Advent Liturgy

Liturgy of Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community

Dr. Jane Via, Pastor



Advent Candle Lighting & Opening Song

Kyrie

God of New Birth, we have not nurtured the seeds of life within our souls.

[R] *God, forgive us. Breathe new life within us.*

Jesus the Christ-child, we forget we are utterly dependent upon God and interdependent with the rest of creation.

[R] *Christ, forgive us. Breathe new life within us.*

Creating God, we often choose denial, refusing to grasp how our lifestyles impact our world.

[R] *God, forgive us. Breathe new life within us.*

May the God who yearns to be born in us, forgive our reluctance to birth God in our world and strengthen us to become God's co-creators. *Amen.*

Opening Prayer

First Reading

The Word of our God. **[R]** *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm

Second Reading

The Word of our God. **[R]** *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation – Celtic Alleluia

Gospel

God is with you. **[R]** *And also with you.*

A reading from the Gospel according to

[R] *Glory to You, O God.*

The Gospel of our God.

[R] *Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.*

Homily

Profession of Faith

(by Sister Joan Chittister, OSB; edited version)

We believe in God who made us all, and whose divinity infuses life with the sacred. We believe in the multiple revelations of God, alive in every human heart, expressed in every culture, found in all the wisdoms of the world.

We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who leads us to the fullness of humanity, to what we are meant to become. Through Christ, we become new people, called beyond the consequences of our brokenness, lifted to the fullness of life.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God on earth, who keeps the Christ vision present to souls yet in darkness, gives light to hearts now blind, infuses energy into spirits yet weary, isolated, searching and confused. We believe in God who is life.

Amen to courage, to hope, to spirit of truth, to nature, to happiness, to wholeness, to the partnership of women and men in God's plan, to the Christ who calls us beyond the boundaries of ourselves, to forgiveness, and to everything that stretches our hearts to the dimensions of God. In all of this, we can surely believe, as God does.

Prayer of the Faithful

Presentation of the Gifts & Offertory Song

Preparation of the Bread and Wine

Blessed are you, O 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 forever.*

Blessed are you, O 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 forever.*

Pray that our offering is one that God desires.

We gather as Your people. Help us to be aware of Your presence in our midst.

Prayer with our Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

God dwells in you. *And also in You.*

Come to the table with thankful hearts.

We open our hearts to God and to one another.

Presider: God, Mystery of Life, we give You thanks that, in the darkness, You are light. Draw us near to You. Offer us strength and endurance as we journey through the seasons of change and the seasons of life.

Voice 1 Let the clarity of Your vision for the world take hold of us. Birth us anew. Pour out Your love on us and all creation. In trust and thanksgiving, we turn toward the light of Your love as we sing our song of unending praise:

Sanctus

*Holy, Holy, Holy God,
God of darkness, God of Light.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are all who come in Your name.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Voice 2 O God, there is one crying in the wilderness who brings good news. In the hush of night, we await Your long expected Messiah. We know You are the strength and consolation of all Your people, our hope and our salvation.

Voice 3 We acknowledge Your birth in a human child, born of a woman called Mary, in a town called Bethlehem. We know this birth is a sign to us and to all the world of Your divine presence in all people and all creation.

Voice 4 We look to You to do great deeds; to scatter the proud; to cast down the mighty from their “thrones”. We look to you to lift up those made low and to fill those who hunger with good things. We await You, O God, with expectant joy.

Voice 5 In the life of Jesus, You were present in a unique way. Through *him*, You scattered the proud, cast down the mighty, lifted the lowly and fed the hungry. Through him You also fed his disciples. Through him You feed Your disciples gathered here tonight.

[Please extend your hand, palm up, toward the bread and wine.]

Presider And so God who is Love, we praise You through Jesus, the one ever being born into our world. We recognize Your Spirit alive and at work in this bread and wine, and in us. We open ourselves to Your Spirit who sanctifies and transforms these gifts to become You in us, the body and blood of Christ, as we now fulfill your command of love. We remember that...

All:

...on the night before Jesus died, while at supper with his friends, he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to them saying: “Take this, all of you and eat. This is my body. Do this in memory of me.”

[Pause]

In the same way, Jesus took the cup filled with wine. He said the blessing, gave the cup to his friends, and said, “Take this all of you and drink. This is my blood. Do this in memory of me.”

Presider Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
*In Jesus’ birth, God was born into the world.
In Jesus’ death, God was revealed in the world.
In Jesus’ resurrection, God’s presence is renewed in the world.*

Voice 6 God of Life, as we celebrate now, we remember the birth of Jesus, Your Messiah. We know You loved him and You love us. We know *he* loved us, even to his death. His life and his death are a parable, teaching us to pour out our lives for others and for Your creation.

Voice 7 We remember this evening all religious leaders everywhere. We ask You to remember all of us gathered here. Remember all those everywhere who are Your people. Remember all those who seek You with a sincere heart. Remember all who have died, whose faith is known to You alone. In Your goodness, grant to us, the experience of Your life-giving presence in the company of all the saints.

Presider God of darkness, God of light, bring true warmth to our lives and renewal to our land. Enlighten our days. Banish the cold. Come to Your people who are waiting with expectant hope. Gather us in Your presence to share in Your one, eternal banquet with all Your saints and with Jesus, through whom Your goodness and blessing flow. Then, in Your presence, we shall sing Your glory with every creature.

Great Amen

*Through Christ, may all creation unfold;
With Christ, may all creation be one;
In Christ, may all divisions be healed;
In the unity of the Holy Spirit, may all glory and honor be Yours, forever and ever.*

[See the song sheet if the “Amen” is sung] Amen.

The Prayer of Jesus

Loving God, in whom is heaven, may Your name be honored everywhere. May Your kin-dom come, May the desire of Your heart for the world be done in us, by us and through us. Give us the bread we need for each day. Forgive us. Enable us to forgive others. Keep us from all anxiety and fear. For You reign in the power that comes from love which is Your glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Sign of Peace

May the peace of God be with you always. *And also with you.* Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

[See the song sheet if the "Lamb of God" is sung]

*Lamb of God, you call us to wait in expectant hope.
Lamb of God, you call us to witness to Your love.
Lamb of God, you call us to wonder at God made human. Grant us peace.*

Presider We are the womb of God, called to birth God in creation. *We are blessed to share in this celebration.*

Communion Song

Prayer after Communion

Closing Blessing

Closing Song

[**"Waiting, watching, witnessing and wondering" is taken from an Advent Series by A.E. Zannoni.]

[**This liturgy is a modified version of the Immaculate Heart Community Advent Celebration, December 15, 2002, La Casa de Maria.]

[***Artwork of Mary by Janetmarie Colby]