

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH—JEBEL ALI

CYCLE C

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Antiphon

Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

Entrance Hymn

(tune: Daily, Daily Sing to Mary)

From the humblest of the cities,
Bethlehem, the very least,
Comes the Savior of the nations,
Born to rule in truth and peace.
There, among the poor and humble,
Justice will be brought to birth;
See the power of love eternal
Manifest throughout the earth.

See the hope of liberation,
By the humble poor received,
By the virgin and the barren,
With such holy joy conceived!
Mary, mother of salvation,
Full of unexpected grace,
All our hopes and longings quicken
By the joy of your embrace.

Greeting

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

All: AMEN

C: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Penitential Rite

C: My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our sins.

Pause for silent reflection. After a brief silence all say:

All: I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord, our God.

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

P: AMEN

The Kyrie

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Christ, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer

Lord, fill our hearts with your love, and as you revealed to us by an angel the coming of your Son as man, so lead us through his suffering and death to the glory of his resurrection, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

R. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R.**
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**
- May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

Second Reading

10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, "God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will."

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel

1:39-44

C: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

C: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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 men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: (all bow) by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

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. 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.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn

1. I give my hands to do your work,
and Jesus Lord, I give them willingly;
I give my feet to go your way,
and every step I shall take cheerfully.
*Oh, the joy of the Lord is my strength, my strength,
Oh, the joy of the Lord is my help, my help.
For the power of His Spirit is in my heart,
and the joy of the Lord is my strength.*
2. I give my eyes to see the world
and everyone in just the way you do;
I give my tongue to speak your words,
to spread your name and freedom-giving truth.

The Offering

(If no song is sung, then the people may make the responses to the prayer of offering given here.)

- C:** 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.
- P:** **Blessed be God for ever.**
- C:** 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.
- P:** **Blessed be God for ever.**
- C:** Pray, brethren, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
- P:** **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.**

Prayer over the gifts

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

Eucharistic Prayer

- C:** The Lord be with you.
- P:** **And also with you.**
- C:** Lift up your hearts.
- P:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- C:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- P:** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Acclamation

All: 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.

Memorial Acclamation

- C:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- P:** **Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Communion Rite

- C:** Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:
- All:** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**
- C:** 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 Saviour, Jesus Christ.
- All:** **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

Breaking of the Bread

- All:** **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.**
- C:** This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.
- All:** **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

The Virgin is with child, and shall bear a son, and she will call him Emmanuel.

Communion Hymn

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden, Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

2. "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be.
All generations laud and honor thee.
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!
3. Then gently Mary meekly bowed her head.
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

1. I'll sing a hymn to Mary,
the Mother of my God,
the Virgin of all virgins,
of David's royal blood.
O teach me, holy Mary,
a loving song to frame
when wicked men blaspheme thee,
to love and bless thy name.
2. O noble tower of David,
of gold and ivory,
the Ark of God's own promise,
the gate of heaven to me.
To live and not to love thee,
would fill my soul with shame.
When wicked men blaspheme thee,
I'll love and bless thy name.
3. The saints are high in glory,
with golden crowns so bright;
but brighter far is Mary,
upon her throne of light.
O that which God did give thee,
let mortal ne'er disclaim;
when wicked men blaspheme thee
I'll love and bless thy name.

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 Saviour,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

Concluding Rite

- C:** The Lord be with you.
- P:** **And also with you.**
- C:** May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
- P:** **Amen.**
- C:** The Mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- P:** **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Hymn

1. Come, O divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph,
and sadness flee away.
*Sweet Saviour, haste: come, come to earth:
dispel the night, and show thy face,
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.
Come, O divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph,
and sadness flee away.*
2. O Thou, whom nation sighed for,
whom priests and prophets long foretold,
wilt break the captive fetters,
redeem the long-lost fold.
3. Shalt come in peace and meekness,
and lowly will thy cradle be:
all clothed in human weakness
shall we thy godhead see.

