



BLUE CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

Priest: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Priest:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Priest: Lord have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Priest: Lord have mercy.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray.

Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. And this we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

A READING FROM REVELATION

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said

to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.' (7:9-17)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd;*
I shall not be in want.
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures*
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul*
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me:
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me;*
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (5:1-10)

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

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A LITANY OF REMEMBERING*

Leader: This candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their heart and the memory that binds them to us in this season. We pause to remember any and all losses that grieve us this season. *(Pause while the first candle is lit. The Leader may call for any to come forward who wish to light a candle in memory of their loved one.)*

All: **May God's eternal love surround those we have lost and surround us in our sadness.**

Leader: This candle we light, asking God to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of our dreams of what might have been. *(Pause while the second candle is lit.)* We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

All: **Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.**

Leader: This candle we light is to remember ourselves this Advent and Christmas. We pause and remember these past weeks and months; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of memories, the hugs and

handshakes of family and friends, all those who stood with us. (*Pause while the third candle is lit.*) We give thanks for all the support we have known.

All: Let us remember that Christ's light defeats darkness.

Leader: This candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope which God's incarnation offers to us. (*Pause while the fourth candle is lit.*) We remember that the God who shared the joys and pain of our life in the person of Christ, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

All: Let us remember the One who is the way, who is the truth and is the light.

Leader: Let us now confidently ask God for all the things we need for ourselves as we participate in whatever way we can this Advent and Christmas. God hear our Prayer....

All: And in your mercy answer.

Leader: For our families and friends that they may continue to help and support us.
God, hear our prayer....

All: And in your mercy answer.

Leader: For our loved ones that have died. For all the losses that we know, that all may be redeemed by your resurrection promise.
God, hear our prayer.

All: And in your mercy answer.

Leader: For peace in all the Church, and all the world. God, hear our prayer.

All: And in your mercy answer.

Leader: God of great compassion and love, hear the prayers of these your people.

The priest adds a concluding Collect.

Laying on of hands and anointing is now available for all who wish to receive it.

THE PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

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

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Priest and People

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The priest continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All say: ***Christ has died.***
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

The Priest continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

***And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our
debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

May the peace which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty (+) the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. *Amen.*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*Adapted from the *Blue Christmas Service*, published in the *Whole People of God Sunday School Curriculum 1996-97 Clergy Supplement*.

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/bluexmas.php>

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