



EUCHALETTE



22 December 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

Year C

WHAT FILLS YOUR HEART THIS ADVENT?

On this last Sunday of Advent, so close to the solemnity of Christmas, we are expected to give the final touches to the preparation we have been carrying out during the past weeks. The Lord is already at the gate. It is now for us to open wide the door of our hearts to welcome him as he deserves. What fills your heart as we approach Christmas?

Do we see a deep desire to do the Father's will, as the eternal Son himself proclaimed when he was about to come into this world, as we learn from today's Second Reading? Are we ready to receive the Lord with the same eagerness, humility, and gratitude with which Elizabeth welcomed him, though still hidden in the womb of his earthly Mother, Mary Most Holy?

The Sun of the day of our salvation is about to rise. Let us open the doors and windows of our hearts that he may flood us with the splendor of his grace and the abundance of his peace!



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior. (Is 45:8)

Greeting

P – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!
All–Amen!

P –The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

All– And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P –Coming together as God's family on this last Sunday of Advent, with confidence let us ask the Lord's forgiveness, that

we may be worthy to celebrate the Sacred Mysteries. *(Pause)*

P –You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's Kingdom. Lord, have mercy!

All– Lord, have mercy!

P –You fulfill the promises of the prophets of old. Christ, have mercy!

All– Christ, have mercy!

P –You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Lord, have mercy!

All– Lord, have mercy!

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

All– Amen!

Gloria

(To be recited only during the Simbang Gabi Mass.)

All–Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we

glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –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.

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Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
All—Amen!



LITURGY OF THE WORD 

1st Reading *Mi 5:1-4*
Since the promise made by God to David through the prophet Nathan, the Jews expected the Messiah to be a descendant of the great King. Today's prophecy further clarifies that he is to be born at Bethlehem, David's birthplace.

R —A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah

Thus says the Lord: You, Bethlehem—Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.

The Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel.

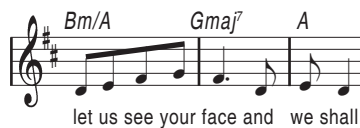
He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, his God. And they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth. He shall be peace.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 80*

R —*Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved!*

R. M. Velez



* **O shepherd of Israel, hear-ken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.** **R.**

* **Once again, O Lord of hosts, look down from heaven, and see. Take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted, the son of man whom you yourself made strong.** **R.**

* **May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you. Give us new life, and we will call upon your name.** **R.**

2nd Reading *Heb 10:5-10*
The Son of God became man to undo, with his perfect obedience, all the cases of disobedience contained in the sins of all human beings. It was his readiness to do the Father's will that made him our savior and our model.

R —A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"

First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." (These are offered according to the law.) Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will."

He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of

the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation *Lk 1:38*

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!
Behold, I am the hand-maid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Lk 1:39-45*

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth was the first to proclaim Mary, "Mother of the Lord." Led by the same Spirit, we echo Elizabeth's greeting and welcome Mary into our life, as the mother and bearer of our Savior.

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
All—Glory to you, O Lord!

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

The Gospel of the Lord!

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

GLOSSARY: • **Bethlehem:** A town in the southern region of Palestine called Judah, and later Judea. The name means "House of Bread." It was the native place of David, and according to the prophecy of Micah, it was also destined to be the birthplace of the Messiah. In fact, due to the census ordered by the Roman Emperor, Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, though Mary, his mother, and Joseph, his foster father, resided in Nazareth. • **Ephrathah:** The burial place of Rachel, wife of Jacob and mother of Joseph, the viceroy of Egypt. The prophet Micah identifies Ephrathah with Bethlehem, the place of origin of Jesse, the father of David, and the town where the Messiah was to be born. (See *Mi 5:1* and *Mt 2:5-6*.) • **Holocausts:** Victims offered in sacrifice and totally consumed by fire. • **Sin offerings:** Sacrifices offered in atonement for sins.

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*bow*)* **and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.***

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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.

I 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 adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P—Together with Mary Most Holy and Elizabeth, let us turn to Jesus, our loving Savior, and plead:

All—Come, Lord Jesus, come!

C—Lord, before time began, You shared life with the Eternal Father. Come now and give us eternal life. We pray! **R.**

C—Word of Life, You are our Creator. Come to redeem the work of Your hands. We pray!**R.**

C—Eternal Son of God, out of love for us, You did not hesitate

to become a mortal human being. Come to free us from the power of death. We pray! **R.**

C—Divine Wisdom, You are the source of Eternal Life. Come and make us share in Your unending glory. We pray! **R.**

C—Splendor of the Father, You are the source of our hope in our world darkened by pain and sin. We pray! **R.**

C—For us as we welcome the Jubilee Year. May it strengthen our faith, and help us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope. We pray! **R.**

P—Lord Jesus, grant that all of us may live this day with the same openness of heart and expectation with which Mary Most Holy prepared herself for Your birth. You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P—Pray, brethren . . .

All—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 holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of Advent II

P—The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P—Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always

and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came.

It is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. 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

P—The mystery of faith!

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!



All—Our Father . . .

P—Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever!

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2×)

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

Communion

P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the

sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.
(Is 7:14)

Prayer after Communion

P —Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as

the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—Amen!



P —The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit!

P —Bow down for the blessing.
(Pause)

—You believe that the Son of God became a human being in the womb of the Virgin Mary. May his im-

minent birth bring you joy and peace.

All—Amen!

P —Christ saved us by carrying out the Father's plan. May you be as obedient as he was.

All—Amen!

P —Christ was born to bring mankind grace and peace. May he fill you with the gift of eternal life.

All—Amen!

P —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P —Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

All—Thanks be to God!

DOING GOD'S WILL

Kalakbay at Katoto

Christmas has been filling the air since September 1, thanks in part to Jose Mari Chan.

We are trying mighty hard in Church to be counter-cultural ... to almost no avail!

And since today, you have chosen to be here at Mass with the rest of the Church all over the world, we might as well set aside first all this Christmas excitement and drink in to the full the riches of this last Sunday of Advent – the last before we move over to Christmas day and the short Christmas season.

One way to do this is to look for an icon, a living image that epitomizes for us what Advent stands for in its subtle richness and meaningfulness.

I suggest we look at Mary as one such icon. After all, the very liturgy itself offers no less than her as object of our reflection in today's Gospel passage.

Mary went to do an errand of charity, we are told. She “*went in haste to a hill country of Judea,*” to assist Elizabeth, who herself, was with

child in her old age.

The recent feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec.12), Patroness of the Americas, can offer us some food for thought in line with this. **There appear to be some clear parallelisms between the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth and the visitation of Mary to an insignificant man named Juan Diego.** Mary was with child when she went to where Elizabeth was. Mary appeared with child when she appeared to Juan Diego, too. Mary, was literally “*llena de gracia,*” full of grace, for she was filled with the author of grace. She carried the author of grace in her womb. Our Lady of Guadalupe, in the image she wanted to be remembered – the image etched indelibly on Juan Diego's cloak, shows her to be “with child.” **People who go around with the intention of helping others, being with others, and doing good to others, like Mary, never go empty-handed.** They always carry something with them. They always bring more than just themselves. People who are busy lifting the burdens of others really come laden with the gift of themselves, the riches of their personhood, the fullness of their gracious selves, ready and willing



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to share whatever riches that are in them. Mary was such a visitor both in Zechariah's house, and Juan Diego's simple, little, insignificant world! Mary went to Elizabeth with more than just a wish to help. **Mary went to Elizabeth's side full of love and laden with something she could not contain – the fruit of the good news she herself has received.** *“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.”* Mary was full of the good news that was taking flesh inside her. Mary was filled with a promise slowly but surely unfolding in a very real sense in her person.

Mary, the first to be evangelized, was also, in turn, the first evangelizer! She went to Judea bringing good news. She went to Judea to DO the good news... to help out a cousin in need. At Tepeyac, Mary did exactly the same. She came pregnant with the Good News, too. She was filled with a message at once so endearing and nurturing, not only to Juan Dieguito, but to all that that little insignificant man stood for. She came bringing good news of salvation to the poor, the outcasts, the downtrodden! *La Guadalupana les ama a los pobres, los sencillos, los humildes de esta tierra!* The Lady of Guadalupe has come to bring good news, not to the mighty, but to the lowly and the humble. Like John the Baptist, too, she has come to fill in the low places, and level the humps and bumps in the lives of people in this valley of tears. Full of grace, she filled in for what was lacking in Elizabeth's – and our – lives! **People experience various types of “fullness”**

these days. Malls are full of people. People's calendars are filled with one activity after another. While wallets get emptied real fast and budgets maxxed out, people are filled with expectant joy and at least material happiness.

But being filled alone, might not translate to being full!

Mary, *La Guadalupana*, was *“llena de gracia,”* full of grace, even as her days at Judea were filled with chores to do. She, too, had her share of busy days helping out her cousin. Filled with things to do, she was above all full of that which was most important, what Jesus told Martha as she complained – *“only one thing is necessary!”* (Lk 10:42)

Today, with only a few days left before Christmas, we might want to give a look at what fills our thoughts, minds and hearts. What is it that sits on our mind all day? What is it that concerns us the most? Are we just waiting to be filled, or are we working towards genuine, lasting fullness – the sort that comes with doing the will of God, the kind that results in deep fulfillment.

Mary shows us the way. So does the letter writer to the Hebrews, who reminds us that it is not necessarily sacrifice and offering that pleases God, but the real and active resolve to fulfill a promise we would do well to be reminded of: *“Behold, I come to do your will, O God!”* (Hebrews 10:7).


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