



# EUCHALETTE



24 December 2017 4th Sunday of Advent Year B

## OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S PRESENCE

Today the liturgical readings invite us to reflect on the presence of God in our midst. His presence is enlivening and reassuring. It is not the presence of the spy or of the judge that fills people with uneasiness and fear. Rather, God's presence among us is the source of our salvation. It is an undeserved gift that transforms our lives, filling them with hope and peace.

But if we want to enjoy all these benefits, we must respond adequately to God's presence in us. We do that by opening our hearts to Him with gratitude and eagerness, following the example of Mary Most Holy who declares her total availability to do whatever God wants. Let this be our disposition today as we are about to begin the Eucharistic celebration.



### 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.**

#### Greeting

**P** –The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**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 forgiveness for all our shortcomings, that we may welcome Jesus with a purified heart. *(Pause)*

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

**All** –**Lord, have mercy!**

**P** –Lord Jesus, you fulfill the promises of the prophets of old. Christ, have mercy!

**All** –**Christ, have mercy!**

**P** –Lord Jesus, 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 / sung 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.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All** –**Amen!**

### LITURGY OF THE WORD



#### 1st Reading

2 Sm 7:1-5.8-12.14.16

*The Israelites knew that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David. Such a conviction*

was based on the promise made by the Lord to David that He would build for him a “house” (i.e., a dynasty) that would last forever. Let us listen to the account of that very important promise.

**R** – A proclamation from the Second Book of Samuel

When King David was settled in his palace, and the Lord had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to *Nathan* the prophet, “Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!” *Nathan* answered the king, “Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the Lord is with you.”

But that night the Lord spoke to *Nathan* and said: “Go, tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Should you build me a house to dwell in? It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth.

I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel.

I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.’”

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 89

**R** –For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord!

R. M. Velez



\* The promises of the Lord I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, “My kindness is established forever.” In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. **R.**

\* “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations.” **R.**

\* “He shall say of me, ‘You are my father, my God, the Rock, my Savior.’ Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm.” **R.**

2nd Reading Rom 16:25-27

This excerpt from the Letter to the Romans is a solemn hymn of glory to God, especially on account of the Gospel that has been announced to all Gentiles.

**R** – A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the

command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen!

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

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

**All**—Alleluia! Alleluia!

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:26-38

The episode of the Annunciation marks the beginning of the fulfillment of the mysterious promise made by God to David concerning an everlasting dynasty.

**P** –The Lord be with you!

**All**—And with your spirit!

**P** –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**All**—Glory to you, O Lord!

The angel *Gabriel* was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. Coming to her, the angel said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called ‘Son of the Most High,’ and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have

**GLOSSARY:** • *Nathan*: The prophet who lived at the court of King David. Noteworthy among his interventions are the promises to David of a lasting dynasty (see 2 Sm 7:16), and the severe indictment of the King after he had committed the sins of adultery and murder. (See 2 Sm 12:1-7.) • *Gabriel*: The archangel to whom God entrusted the communication of important messages. Gabriel announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah, and of Jesus to Mary Most Holy.

no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord!  
**All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### Homily

#### Profession of Faith

(*Nicene 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** —In union with Mary, God's generous handmaid, let us set our hearts to do the Lord's will and implore from Him the grace we need to do so. Together we pray:

**All—Faithful God, hear us!**

**C** —That the Church and her leaders may always give priority to the building of strong communities of faith and action, let us pray! **R.**

**C** —That all the political and civil leaders may keep in mind that all their plans will come to nothing unless they conform to God's will, let us pray! **R.**

**C** —That all those who prepare for Christmas may prioritize their spiritual needs rather than exhaust their energies in the pursuit of material things, let us pray! **R.**

**C** —That all those who do not yet believe in Jesus as their Savior may open their hearts to the message of God's word and let it bear fruit in their lives, let us pray!**R.**

**C** —That all of us may live this last day of the Christmas Novena with the same disposition with which Mary Most Holy prepared herself for the birth of Jesus, let us pray! **R.**

**C** —Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (*Pause*)

Let us pray! **R.**

**P** —God of all faithfulness, grant that our behavior be always in accordance with the Gospel of life we profess, and a witness to Jesus, the only Savior of the world who lives and reigns 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!**

#### Advent Preface 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 . . .**

#### Memorial Acclamation

**P** —The mystery of faith!

**All—Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**



**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! (2x)

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.

### 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!

## CONCLUDING RITES



**P** —The Lord be with you.  
**All**—And with your spirit!

**P** —Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. (Pause)  
May the ever faithful Lord build for you a future of serenity, peace, and good health.

**All**—Amen!

**P** —May He enable you to overcome all adversities and trials.

**All**—Amen!

**P** —May He dispose your hearts and souls to welcome Jesus the way Mary Most Holy did.

**All**—Amen!

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

**All**—Amen!

**P** —Our Eucharistic celebration is over. Go and carry its fruits into your life.

**All**—Thanks be to God!



## The Lord Is with Us

**J**ess, a young man of fifteen and the first-born of four children, found himself overwhelmed by his new responsibility. His father, Anthony, had died after a nine-month bout with leukemia. Now, all of a sudden, Jess found himself called to fulfill the very challenging role of being the new head of the family. His mother, Mary Angela, needed help to raise the other three children, the youngest of whom was only 4 years old. They had to pay the huge debts they had incurred for the hospitalization of Anthony.

Jess sought the guidance of the elderly, frail parish priest. With an intense look which only holy souls have, the old man reassured Jess: "Do not be disturbed. Do your best always and the Lord will be with you. He is already with you. And if the Lord is with you, you can overcome any obstacle."

These brief sentences would have sounded a poor consolation to many others, but young Jess took them seriously and did just what the old, frail parish priest had whispered. He became more aware of the Lord's presence and learned to trust fully in Him. He felt God's presence like that of a friend, a mentor, and an ally, depending on the circumstances. He often talked to Him.

After six years, Jess' family had managed to pay all the debts, to the surprise of many adults, a good number of whom had barely managed to make ends meet. Clearly, belief in the Lord's presence and help had been more than effective.

"The Lord is with you" is a sentence that we find in the Scriptures in crucial moments of the history of the Chosen People. Moses heard it from God Himself in the form of a promise when he trembled at hearing the task given him to lead his people out of the slavery of Egypt. (See Ex 3: 12.)

David heard it from the mouth of the prophet Nathan in connection with his plan to build a temple for the Lord. (See 1st Reading.) Mary Most Holy heard that wonderful sentence when the angel Gabriel communicated to her that she had been chosen to be the mother of the Messiah. (See today's Gospel.)

"I will not leave you orphans," said Jesus to his disciples shortly before his enemies captured him. "I will always be with you till the end of time," Jesus promised before his ascension. He kept and does keep that promise. **The Lord is with the Church in all centuries, guiding and protecting her through his Spirit. He is with all who trust in him**—not only with the great and the brave, but also with the small people like us, frail and uncertain as we trek the path of an unfriendly world.

It is very important that we become aware of the Lord's presence in our lives. It is even more important that we make him our constant companion, friend, adviser, and protector. This implies that we, too, should be "with the Lord," that is: entrust ourselves totally to him, obey his word, doing our best to please him.

This will establish a fruitful partnership between God and us. Such a "partnership of mutual presences" should characterize the new year we are about to start. As Jesus joins us as our "Travel Companion" to remain with us through thick and thin, in joy and in sorrow, in triumph and defeat, we should enjoy his presence and be grateful for it. This is a grace we will never be able to deserve. **We should treasure his presence as one of the most precious things in life**, for life is an apprenticeship for the "final state" when we will be with the Lord for ever.



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