



A Eucharist to Celebrate Generosity during Advent



PREPARATION



In preparation for this act of worship, you might wish to pray privately this Ignatian Prayer for Generosity.

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.
Amen.

St Ignatius of Loyola



THE GATHERING



In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

In your light shall we see light.

Your word is a lantern to my feet

and a light upon our path.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe,
eternal creator of light and darkness.

In this season of Advent,

when the sun's light is swallowed up

by the growing darkness of night,

you renew your promise to reveal among us

the splendour of your glory,

in the gift of Jesus Christ your Son.

Through the prophets

you teach us to hope for his reign of peace.

Through the outpouring of his Spirit,

you open our hearts to live more generously.

Strengthen us as we seek to grow in your likeness,

and free our hearts in gratitude to sing your praise:

for to you all honour and blessing are due,

now and for ever. **Amen.**

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.



Prayers of Penitence



As we prepare to receive the gift of the infant Christ,
we remember the times when we have not received graciously,
or lived in the light of our generous God.

Father, you give to us your Son,
yet we receive grudgingly;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you made yourself poor, that we might become rich,
yet we hoard our possessions and forget to live by your example;
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you bless us with the fruit of generosity,
yet we fail to respond to your call;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself
and cleanse us from all our sins,
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Gloria in Excelsis



Gloria in excelsis may be used.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
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.**



The Collect



O Lord Jesus Christ,
by your incarnation you sanctified material things
to be the means of your grace:
grant us the right attitude towards our possessions,
and a generous heart in the sue of the gifts that you give to us,
that by our actions we may glorify you,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



As this service takes place during the season of Advent, the appropriate Lectionary readings are used during Principal Services. Where this Order of Service is being used outside the Principal Service, the following patterns of readings may be used.

The First Reading

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet’; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Romans 13.8-14

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading



Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

John 1.1-18

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A sermon may be given.



The 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 and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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.



PRAYER



In joyful expectation of the gift of the Infant Christ,
we pray to Jesus saying;
Maranatha.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.
We pray for our local community In this parish,
that we might bless those around us this Advent with joy and grace.
Help us to live In the light of your coming
and giving us a longing for your kingdom.
Maranatha.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations.
We pray for those who lead and govern this country,
that they might take courage from generosity In their relationships,
and lead with humility.
Before you rulers will stand In silence.
Maranatha.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.
We pray for your gift of peace,
and for the spirit of receiving graciously when we are In need.
Break Into those areas of our lives
where we struggle with sickness and distress,
and set us free to serve you for ever.
Maranatha.

Come, Lord Jesus.



Come to us from heaven with power and great glory.
Lift us up to meet you,
that with all your saints and angels
we may live and reign with you In your new creation.
Maranatha.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence is kept.

Source of all life and giver of all that is good,
give to your people who trust In your love
a spirit of joy in generosity.
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom
on earth as in heaven,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy forever.

Amen.



THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

May the God of peace give you the gift of holiness,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

All are invited to exchange a sign of peace.

An offering is received, giving time for people to reflect on gifts given electronically. The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Prayer over the Offering



God of all creation,
the source of life and giver of all good things;
through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.
With them we offer our lives;
that we may be used to serve others,
and give you glory.
We make our prayer
in the name of Jesus Christ,
who is the perfect gift incarnate.
Amen.



Taking of the Bread and Wine

Blessed are you, Lord God of abundance:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of abundance:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the wine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.



The Eucharistic Prayer



The Lord be with you
here.

(or)

The Lord is

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

His Spirit is with us.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he modelled the true spirit of generosity and self-giving love.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with the whole company of heaven
to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

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.



We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.



On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, 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.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.



Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.



Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [N and] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Rejoicing in the gift of his presence among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Amen.



We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**



(or)

O taste and see that the Lord is gracious;
blessed is the one who trusts in him.

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Communion is administered.

Prayer after Communion

Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit
that when Christ comes again
we may shine like lights before him
and witness to his self-giving love;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



THE DISMISSAL



May Christ, who for our sake became poor
make you rich in everything -
in faith, generosity, grace and love;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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