

ANTE COMMUNION HEALING SERVICE

4TH WEDNESDAY OF ADVENT



OPENING SALUTATION Blessed be God: father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

PENITENTIAL ORDER If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

The Deacon or Celebrant then says Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Minister and People Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY The Lord be with you. *And also with you.* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-16 A reading from the second book of Samuel

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him,² the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.”³ Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to

this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.¹⁵ But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. Thanks be to God!

PSALM 89

¹ Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

² *For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.*

³ "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴ *I will establish your line for ever, and preserve your throne for all generations."*

¹⁹ You spoke once in vision and said to your faithful people:

"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

²⁰ I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.

²¹ *My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong.*

²² No enemy shall deceive him, nor any wicked man bring him down.

²³ *I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.*

²⁴ My faithfulness and love shall be with him, and he shall be victorious through my Name.

²⁵ *I shall make his dominion extend from the Great Sea to the River.*

²⁶ He will say to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

²⁷ *I will make him my firstborn and higher than the kings of the earth.*

²⁸ I will keep my love for him for ever, and my covenant will stand firm for him.

²⁹ *I will establish his line for ever and his throne as the days of heaven."*

GOSPEL: LUKE I: 68-79

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

⁶⁷ Then (...) Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: ⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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

HOMILY

A LITANY OF HEALING Deacon: Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding.

Lector: God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation; **we praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly; **we praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence; **we praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being; **we praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole; **hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence; **hear us, O Lord of life.**

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

You are the Lord who does wonders: ***you have declared your power among the peoples.***

With you, O Lord, is the well of life: ***and in your light we see light.***

Hear us, O Lord of life: ***heal us, and make us whole.***

Let us pray. A *period of silence follows*. Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us; ***Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.***

O God, the source of all health: So fill our hearts with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy we may make room for your power to possess us, and gracefully accept your healing. Comfort and relieve all those for whom we pray, give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If you desire to receive the Laying on hands for yourself or on behalf of someone else, let us know.

N., I lay my hands upon you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, beseeching our Lord Jesus Christ to sustain you with his presence, to drive away all sickness of body and spirit, and to give you that victory of life and peace which will enable you to serve him both now and evermore. **Amen.**

THE PEACE The peace of the Lord be always with you. ***And also with you.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER And now, filled by the Spirit we may pray, ***Our Father, who 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

A COLLECT FOR PEACE Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION Let us pray, ***My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since***

I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

THE BLESSING May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL **Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!**