



March 25, 2020



Welcome to X Church.

A few words about this service:

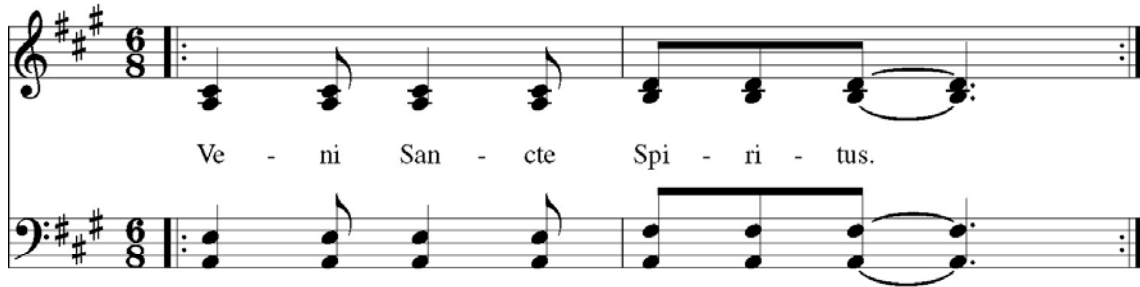
- ❖ *There is a large candle and a bowl of water near the entrance. The Paschal Candle represents the light of Christ. The bowl contains water blessed from the Baptismal Rite. You may consider dipping your fingers in the water and crossing yourself as you enter or leave the church as a reminder of your baptismal identity.*
- ❖ *At the start of the service, the church bell and chimes are tolled slowly. Please remain seated.*
- ❖ *Please use the silence at the start of the service to prepare your heart for worship. There will also be moments of silence throughout tonight's worship, to allow for contemplation.*
- ❖ *Throughout this liturgy, music is led by an ensemble of voices. The congregation is encouraged to join in with the chants and refrains as they become familiar.*
- ❖ *Congregants are invited to kneel or stand as they are able at various point within the liturgy. Please feel free to sit as an alternative or as a result of physical discomfort.*

The Liturgy of the Word

Preparation for Worship

Come, Holy Spirit

Veni Sancte Spiritus



Refrain (sung by all): Veni Sancte Spiritus

Verses (*sung by cantor*):

Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Come, from the four winds, O Spirit, come breath of God; disperse the shadow over us, renew and strengthen your people.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Come, Father of the poor, come, generous Spirit, come, light of our hearts.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Father of the poor come to our poverty. Shower upon us the seven gifts of your grace. Be the light of our lives, oh come.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

You are our only comforter, Peace of the soul. In the heat you shade us; in our labor you refresh us, and in trouble you are our strength.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Kindle in our hearts the flame of your love that in the darkness of the world it may glow and reach us all forever.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Following a period of silence, all stand.

Presider: On this Lenten wilderness journey, what will we eat?

People: **The Word of the Lord is our daily bread.**

Presider: In this time of temptation, how will we live?

People: **Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.**

Presider: At this kingdom crossroad, who will we serve?

People: **We worship the Lord our God alone.**

Prayer of Penitence (*A Summary of the Law is read.*)

Presider: Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All: **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Presider: Already assured that forgiveness is ours in Jesus Christ, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, that we might receive mercy and amend our lives.

All kneel. A period of silence is kept.

All: **Lord, you know who we are. You know everything we have done. We thirst for things that will never satisfy us. We commit ourselves to things that will never last. We worship things that will never bring salvation. We come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old ways instead of change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to live anew into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith, love us, and forgive us. Amen.**

Assurance of Absolution

Presider: Hear and believe the words of Jesus: “Your sins are forgiven; Go in peace; Come and follow me.” God have mercy on you, pardon you and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **AMEN.**

Remain kneeling.

Presider: Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this night,

People: **that we may continue this journey with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

All sit. A period of silence is kept after each reading.

Reading

Isaiah 49:8-15

Lector: A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: In a time of favour I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people,* to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; saying to the prisoners, 'Come out', to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights* shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up. Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.*

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

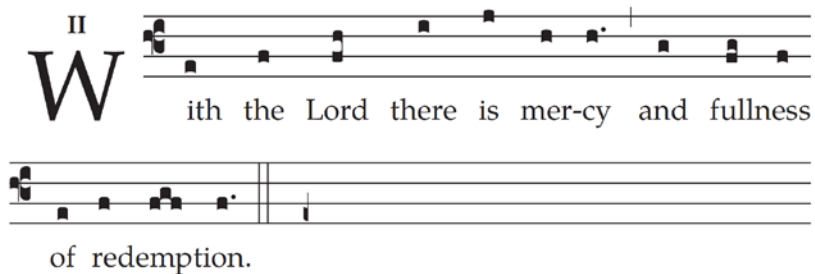
But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.' Can a woman forget her nursing-child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

At the conclusion of the reading the lector says:

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130



W^{II} ith the Lord there is mer-cy and fullness
of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication. (*Refrain.*)

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, LORD who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered. (*Refrain.*)

I trust in the LORD; my soul trusts his word.
More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the LORD. (*Refrain.*)

For with the LORD is kindness and with him is plentous redemption;
and he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities. (*Refrain.*)

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

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

Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomsoever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgement to the Son, so that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. Anyone who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.

‘Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Gospeller: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

A period of silence will be kept.

Kyrie and Prayers of the People

Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.

We pray for the health and vitality of the church: You command us to honor you by loving one another, yet all too often there is quarreling and jealousy among us. Help us to live the law of your love as we seek to grow into the full stature of Christ. On your church,

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy.

We pray for the welfare of the world: you have blessed us with every skill and gift for nurturing the common good, yet our self-centered ways incline our hearts toward evil. Strengthen us to work together for the mutual benefit of neighbors near and far and for the life and prosperity of your reign on earth. On the world,

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

We pray for the well-being of your creation: Our choices wreak havoc on the world you have made and put your planet in peril. Guide our patterns of consumption for the flourishing of all creation and for generations yet unborn. On this earth,

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

We pray for all who suffer and are in need: You call us to care for one another with compassion and steadfast love, yet we wither in the face of anguish and brokenness. Equip us for the work of reconciliation, that we might offer hope and healing in the power of your name. On the broken and needy,

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

We pray for all who are sick and are dying: May your will for them be fulfilled. Fill us with your mercy and kindness that we may care for them with loving hearts as you bring them to the wholeness of your peace. On the sick,

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

We pray for all who have died and all who mourn: May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Let us entrust those we love to your never-failing care. We commend all our life to you, O God, knowing that you hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. On those who have died,

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Blessing

The Presider blesses the people.

Go into the night, looking upon the hearts of others. Live in Christ's light, even in the darkest valley. Trust that he is able to open your eyes, enabling you to walk by faith in his name. And may the blessing of God almighty, God the life-giver, God the pain-bearer, God the love-maker, be with you this night and all our nights. **Amen.**

Silence is kept.

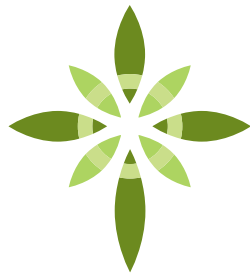
Dismissal

The Presider dismisses the people.

Go into the night in faith, trusting in God's sense of direction. Remember how much God loves this world and you, and so love the world in the name of Christ, that your life may bear witness to the good news that someone else has been waiting to receive.

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

Credits: Opening Sentence, Confession, prayer before the readings, eucharistic prayer, blessing, and dismissal are adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. The Prayer for illumination before the readings, the Prayers of the People, and the dismissal are adapted from Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion. The Kyries in the Prayers of the People are from Sacred Weave The blessing is from the Iona Abbey Worship Book.



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