Fourth Sunday of Advent

INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN— **375** *Celebration Hymnal*

The ADVENT CANDLE *is lit, and the priest says*

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary. Grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

All respond: **Blessed be God for ever.**

In the name of the Father, and of ✠ the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All respond: **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE *are introduced.*

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you ✠ from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEÏSON *is sung.*

Kyrie, eleïson. (×3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*
Christe, eleïson. (×3) *(Christ, have mercy.)*
Kyrie, eleïson. (×3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*

All remain standing for the COLLECT.

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings for Year B

FIRST READING *2 Sam 7.1–11,16*

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

When the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 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 for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' 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, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 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. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them

no more, as formerly, 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.

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me. Your throne shall be established for ever.'"

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE *Magnificat*

℟. My soul rejoices in my God. *(All repeat)*

My soul glorifies the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
For he has looked with favour
upon the lowliness of his servant. ℟.

And so from this day forward
all ages will call me blessèd.
The Almighty works marvels for me,
and holy is his name. ℟.

His mercy is from age to age
upon those who fear him.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit. ℟.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things,
and sends the rich empty away. ℟.

He protects his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy:
the mercy he promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever. ℟.

SECOND READING *Rom 16.25–27*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

To him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God be glory for evermore through Jesus Christ, Amen!

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN— **364**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Mt 1.23*

Alleluia.
The virgin shall conceive and bear a son:
his name shall be Emmanuel, 'God is with us'.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING *Lk 1.26–38*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "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, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the

Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

A SERMON *may follow.*

*All **stand** to recite the* NICENE 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,
(all bow) **was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**
(all rise) **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.

The INTERCESSIONS *are introduced, and all **kneel**. One of these responses may be used:*
℣. Lord, hear us. ℟. **Lord, graciously hear us.**
or ℣. Lord, in your mercy, ℟. **Hear our prayer.**

At the Commemoration of the Departed:
℣. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;
℟. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The Intercessions may end:
Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*All **stand** as the priest introduces the* PEACE.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN— **522**

The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS.
Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
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 Church.
Lord, may the Holy Spirit, who filled with his power the womb of Mary, sanctify the offerings we place upon your altar; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
The Lord be with you. **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 him thanks and praise.

The PREFACE *follows.*

All respond with the SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.
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.

*All **kneel**. After the Consecration, all acclaim:*
Christ is the bread of life:
When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory *(sung twice)***.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:
… for ever and ever. **Amen.**

RITE OF COMMUNION

The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI *is sung.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.

The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.

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

Holy Communion is distributed.

COMMUNION HYMN

1. **Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour, all for love's sake becamest poor:**
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour, all for love's sake becamest poor.

2. **Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man:**
Stooping so low, but sinners raising heav'nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.

3. **Thou who art love beyond all telling, Saviour and King, we worship thee.**
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Saviour and King, we worship thee.

The priest says the POST-COMMUNION *prayer.*

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUSION

The priest gives the BLESSING *and* DISMISSAL.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

… The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN— **694**

The service may be followed by the ANGELUS.

℣. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:
℟. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

℣. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
℟. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**
Hail Mary …

℣. And the Word was made flesh:
℟. **And dwelt among us.**
Hail Mary …

℣. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:
℟. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**
Let us pray. 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; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**