

## AN ADVENT LITURGY

© 2005 by Mark Bergmann, Merrick Dennill, Chris Maas, Mike Tomalty, Sam Roy, and CCWS

### Summary:

This service includes a great deal of scripture and is intended for use in a college context. It would work well as the last gathering before Christmas break. It was used by a group of fifty college students on December 12, 05.

Length: 11 pages

## **PART 1**

### **Hear the revealed word...**

*Let us remember the Lord Jesus Christ in this Advent season.*

#### **From Luke's Gospel -**

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those dwelling in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

(Luke 1:68-79)

*Let us remember the Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**From John's Gospel-**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him, Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children not born of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

(John 1:1-18)

*Let us remember the Life of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed by the Cherubim, hallowed by the Seraphim and exalted by thousands of thousands and myriads of myriads of the spiritual hosts; you who sanctify and make perfect the offerings and the ripe fruits, which have been offered for a sweet-smelling fragrance, sanctify also our bodies, souls and spirits so that with a pure heart and a face unashamed we may call upon you, O God, the heavenly Father, and let us pray, saying:

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.

Yes, Lord our God, let us not enter into intolerable temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, making a way of escaping from temptation; and to you we raise glory and thanks and to your only-begotten Son and to your Holy Spirit, all-holy, good, adorable and life-giving, who is of one substance with you now, always and forever.

And all God's people said  
Amen.

Just as the Disciples of Jesus scattered before his death, so shall we all NOW GET UP, and move to different seats, recognizing that like the disciples, we too have acted regrettably in the face of adversity.

**\*\*\*\*shuffle\*\*\*\*** (move to a different seat in the room, signifying the dispersal of the followers of Jesus)

*Let us remember the Death of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**From Luke's Gospel -**

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

(Luke 23:44-46)

(turn off all lights so that it is pitch black)

(Silence for one full minute)

*Let us remember the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ*

(lights turned on)

**From Matthew's Gospel –**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

(Matthew 28:1-10)

We will now take time to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ by the declaration-- "He is Risen!"; and the response-- "He is Risen indeed!" We ask that you declare this to your brothers and sisters both beside you and across from you, just as the name of Christ is proclaimed across the world by all believers.

He is Risen!

-- He is Risen indeed! --

*Let us look forward to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**From James' Epistle –**

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

(James 5:7-10)

**From the Apocalypse of John –**

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(Revelation 19:11-16, 22:12-17, 20)

Part 2

**Let us respond to the revealed Word of God.**

(kneeling)

With fear and with faith draw near and communicate in holiness. O Lord, God of our salvation, who art merciful and compassionate, long-suffering and full of pity and repentance of evil, yet we willingly gave way to it and from good works we purposely kept away; woe unto us. We have sinned against the Lord.

(short time of private confession)

(have everyone stand)

May God the lover of man have mercy upon thee, and grant thee forgiveness of all thy sins, both those thou hast confessed as well as those which thou hast forgotten. Therefore, with the priestly authority committed to me, and by the divine command that whatsoever ye loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven, I absolve thee of all participation in sin, in thought, in word and in deed, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and reinstate thee in the sacraments of the holy Church, that whatsoever good thou mayest do, may be accounted to thee for good and for the glory of the life to come. Amen.

We give thee thanks, O Christ our God, who hast granted us such a taste of thy goodness unto holiness of life. Though it keep us holy and without sin, by dwelling among us, and grant thy divine protection. Tend us in the pastures of thy holy and benevolent will, whereby, being fortified against every wile of the adversary, we may be counted to thee alone, our only victorious and true shepherd, and to receive from thee the peace prepared for us in thy Kingdom of heaven, O our God, and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who are blessed with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, Kingdom without end. Amen.

(please be seated)

*Let us bring our supplications to the Lord Jesus Christ.*

We will read a series of questions and if you identify with the question, we ask that you raise your hand HIGH— as a way that the gathered body might lift the individual in prayer, and as a way that the individual might lift the body in prayer.

In the coming Christmas season...

- who of you is going to families unresponsive to the gospel?
- who of you is going to families in turmoil or who have experienced hardship this year?
- who of you is going into situations where you will face temptation?
- who of you is going to face loneliness?
- who of you is going to face difficult or significant decisions?
- who of you is going into the possibility where Christmas break will bring no rest?

Remember, O Lord, those who have bidden us to remember them...

Now we will pray for all those who have bidden us to remember them in our prayers and supplications, each one by his name, that Christ our God may remember them with goodness at all times and forgive our sins.

\*\*\*\*\*time of private prayer\*\*\*\*\*

(say together) *Lord, have Mercy.*

\*\*\*\*\*ask everyone to stand for prayer\*\*\*\*\*

In our prayers and supplications which we offer up unto you, O Lord our God, as in this particular time of this holy service, those whom we remember at all times and those who are in the thoughts of each one of us: let their remembrance, which is now being made, be to them a firm shield prevailing against all affirmations of the devils and counsel of evil men.

*Lord, Have Mercy.*

*Let us pray for those who will travel.*

Leader to life, Path to truth,  
Our Lord Jesus Christ;  
You led Joseph to Egypt,  
And the people of Israel through the Red Sea;  
And Moses to Mount Sinai,  
And his people to the land of promise.  
And you traveled with Cleopas and this companion to Emmaus.  
Now, I pray you, Lord:  
Lead my companions and me  
To travel in peace on the journey before us.  
Save us from the visible and invisible enemy  
And lead us safely to the place we are headed.  
For you are our way and our truth and our life.  
Glory and worship to you, now and always, and unto the ages of ages.  
Amen.

For this next responsive prayer, every sentence begins with “Our Lord Jesus Christ...”, and together we all repeat this refrain for every line. It begins after I read the opening line of the prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that we give thanks to your grace, pray and beseech your kindness.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, have mercy on us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, help us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, deliver us from our enemies.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, under the wings of your cross, protect us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, from our fall into sin, lift us up.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, out of the pitfall and the gulf of afflictions, raise us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, from all the snares of the adversary, preserve us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, from all evil thoughts, deliver us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, from defilement and blasphemy, save us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, from the filth and the stain of foul deeds, wash us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, from wickedness and stains, purify us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, with your goodness and blessings, satisfy us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, from your treasure which is full of mercy and compassion, enrich us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, in your heavenly resting place which is full of joy, gladden us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, make us rejoice with the guests and the invited ones of your  
Kingdom.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, with the just and the righteous who pleased you, invite us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, with the lambs who stand at your right hand, place us.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, with the elect ones and saints, make us to shine on the day when your  
majesty is manifest.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, in that spiritual banquet, at your right hand, make us sit, so that, with our  
departed ones and with all the faithful departed, we may raise to you, O my Lord, praise and  
thanksgiving, and to your Father and to your Holy Spirit, now, always, and for ever. Amen.

*Please stand as we receive the Armenian Blessing of Dismissal*

Keep us in peace, O Christ our Lord  
Under the protection of your holy and venerable cross;  
Save us from our enemies, visible and invisible;  
And count us worthy to glorify you with thanksgiving,  
With the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
Now and forever, world without end.  
Amen.

Thank you for participating as the body of Christ.