

ADAPTED EVENING PRAYER for Wednesday, March 25, 2020

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Preparation

- Consider and set your “prayer space”
 - If you are praying alone, consider finding a quiet, prayerful space. If you are praying with your family or other members of a household, consider gathering around a coffee table or dining table.
 - Add optional items that may enhance your prayer if you desire: a small table with a purple cloth, a lit candle, a cross, holy images or statues.
 - You may want to have a journal available to write down reflections or words as you pray.
 - Lighting affects our mood. Consider dimming the lights or using a lamp instead of bright overheads.
- If you are praying in a group, you may want to assign parts to read along with the livestream. This is a great way to keep children engaged. You may want to consider splitting your “group” in half and alternating reading aloud each paragraph.
- Silence cell phones or tend to things that have the potential to disrupt your prayer time.

Gathering We take a few moments to quiet our hearts.

Introduction

[All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader begins.]

Leader: God, + come to our assistance.

All: *Lord, make haste to help us.*

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: *As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Hymn Let It Be Done

When she heard the voice of God
calling her to be
the instrument he needed
to bring our world the King of Kings,
she could not understand
the wisdom of God's plan, but still she answered:
"Let it be. Let it be done unto me."

When he heard the voice of God
calling him to stand
and take the virgin as his wife
and teach her child to be a man,
he could not understand
the wisdom of God's plan, but still he answered:
"Let it be. Let it be done unto me."

**And we say: "Yes, Lord,
we're ready to receive.
Yes, Lord, we're ready to believe.
Let it be. Let it be done unto me."**

When we hear the voice of God
calling out our names,
Lord, we pray you give us faith
to answer you in anything.
And we may not understand
the wisdom of your plan, but we will answer:
"Let it be. Let it be done unto me."

Psalm Psalm 110: The Messiah, king, and priest

Leader: *The angel of the Lord brought the good news to Mary, and she conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

The Lord has said to my lord:

“Sit at my right hand
while I make your enemies your footstool.”

From Zion the Lord will give you a scepter,
and you will rule in the midst of your foes.
Royal power is yours in the day of your strength,
among the sacred splendors.
Before the dawn, I begot you from the womb.

The Lord has sworn, and he will not repent:

“You are a priest forever,
a priest of the priesthood of Melchisedech.”

The Lord is at your right hand,
and on the day of his anger he will shatter kings.

He will drink from the stream as he goes –
he will hold his head high.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

All: The angel of the Lord brought the good news to Mary, and she conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Silence We sit in sacred silence for a few moments to allow our hearts to listen to the voice of the Spirit.

Psalm Psalm 130: Out of the depths

Leader: *Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called the Son of the Most High.*

Out of the depths I have cried to you, Lord:

Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears listen out
for the voice of my pleading.

If you took notice of our transgressions, Lord –

Lord, who would be left?

But with you is forgiveness,
and for this we revere you.

I rely on you, Lord,

my spirit relies on your promise;

my soul hopes in the Lord,
more than the watchman for daybreak.

More than the watchman for daybreak,
let Israel hope in the Lord:
for with the Lord there is kindness
and abundant redemption.
He himself will redeem Israel
from all its transgressions.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

All: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called the Son of the Most High.

Silence

Canticle Colossians 1: Christ, firstborn of all creatures and firstborn from the dead

Leader: I am the servant of the Lord: let it be as you have said.

Let us give thanks to God the Father,
who has made us worthy to share in the light that is the saints' inheritance.
He has rescued us from the power of the shadows
and brought us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption
and the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God,
the first-born of all creation,
for in him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
thrones and dominations,
principalities and powers.

All things were created through him and for him:
he is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.

And he is the head of the body, the Church.
He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead,
and so he is pre-eminent above all.
For it was the Father's will that the fullness of God should dwell in him,
and that through him all things should be reconciled to himself.
Through the blood of the Cross he brought peace to all things,
both on Earth and in the heavens.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

All: I am the servant of the Lord: let it be as you have said.

Reading 1 John 1: 1-2

Something which has existed since the beginning,
that we have heard,
and we have seen with our own eyes;
that we have watched
and touched with our hands:
the Word, who is life –
this is our subject.
That life was made visible:
we saw it and we are giving our testimony,
telling you of the eternal life
which was with the Father and has been made visible to us.

Reflection

Take a few moments to think or journal about one or more of these questions:

- How does it make you feel to know that God knew you before you were born?
- In this time of anxiety and fear, are you truly “crying out” to God? Are you placing your hope in God?
- In what ways is God asking you to trust God today? Where is your “yes” needed?

Short Responsory

Leader: The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.
All: The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.
Leader: He was with God in the beginning.
All: The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.
Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
All: The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.

Canticle Magnificat: My soul rejoices in the Lord

Leader: *The angel Gabriel said to Mary: ‘Hail, full of grace: the Lord is with you. You are the most blessed of all women.’*

**I will lift my voice, I will raise my hands
To the one who is the great I am!
My soul proclaims the greatness of His name,
And my spirit will rejoice in God my Savior!**

He has looked upon me in His love,
And my name will be forever blessed.
For the Lord, who is mighty, has done great things for me
My soul proclaims, “Holy is His name!”

His mercy flows on every generation
On those who follow in fear
He has scattered the proud and cast the mighty from their thrones
The meek and the lowly are exalted!

He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich he sends away.
He has given help to Israel, remembering his mercy!

All: The angel Gabriel said to Mary: 'Hail, full of grace: the Lord is with you. You are the most blessed of all women.'

Prayers and Intercessions

Leader: Eternal Father, on this day through your angel you made known our salvation to Mary. Full of confidence
we earnestly pray:

All: Lord, fill us with your grace.

Leader: You chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son.
Have mercy on all who wait for your redemption.

All: Lord, fill us with your grace.

Leader: Through your angel Gabriel you brought a message of peace and joy to Mary.
Give to the world the joy and peace of salvation.

All: Lord, fill us with your grace.

Leader: By the consent of your handmaid and the power of the Holy Spirit, your Word came to dwell among us.
Open our hearts to receive Christ, as Mary the Virgin received him.

All: Lord, fill us with your grace.

Leader: You look with compassion on the lowly and fill the starving with good things.
Encourage the downhearted, help all those in need and comfort those near to death.

All: Lord, fill us with your grace.

Leader: To you, O God, nothing is impossible, and you alone do marvelous things;
save us, and on the last day along with all the faithful departed, bring us to yourself.

All: Lord, fill us with your grace.

Leader: For what else shall we pray? (Type your intentions in the comments section.)

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.

Prayer

Leader: Shape us in the likeness of the divine nature of our Redeemer,
whom we believe to be true God and true man,
since it was your will, Lord God,
that he, your Word, should take to himself our human nature
in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Dismissal

Leader: May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us go forth wishing each other peace either in the comments section or with a wave and smile.