

THE MYSTICAL MASS

*A service of the Holy Eucharist in the
Liberal Catholic & Mystical Christian Traditions*



**The Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch
Province of New Zealand**

Processional Hymn

(All Rise and Sing)

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the LORD is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His flock, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why the LORD our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood
and shall from age to age endure.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

The people are seated.

OPENING HYMN: THE HYMN OF NATURE

(St Francis of Assisi)

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along, O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear, O Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright
That givest us both warmth and light.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

INVOCATION

Priest: Blessed be the Kingdom of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit ✠

All: Amen ✠

OPENING PRAYER

Priest: We have come to worship God through the elements of nature which form the Divine fabric of all creation. Therefore, before we commence these Holy Mysteries let us pray to our Divine Creator *(all bow heads)*.

All: Blessed are you, Crown of the Universe. Your Limitless Light shines through all the worlds. Pour forth your Love into the chalice of our hearts. Set us ablaze with thy Divine Fire that we may humbly partake in thy Holy Mysteries. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Priest: Priest: We Light these candles in the name of the Blessed Trinity. By the Power of the Creator *(light taper from Lamp)*, the Love of the Redeemer *(light left candle)* and Wisdom of the Giver of Life *(light right candle)*. God above us, God around us, and God within us. Let us pray:

All: O Thou who art the Sun of Righteousness and the Light Eternal, giving gladness unto all things; shine upon us both now and forever, that we may walk always in the light of Thy countenance. Amen (6th Century Collect).

THE ASPERGES

Priest *(Receiving the aspergill, Priest makes ✠ with it, saying:)* May the Lord purify me that I may worthily perform His holy service. *(Sprinkling Altar middle, left, then right)* In the strength of the Lord I expel all evil from this His Holy Altar and sanctuary, and from this House, wherein we worship Him *(Turning to people, sprinkling 3x)*. The Lord has said: I will gather you from among the nations and bring you from every land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you.

All: And we shall be cleansed of all uncleanness. And a new heart will be given unto us, and our spirits shall be renewed (Ezekiel, 36:24-26).

THE CENSING

Priest: *Censes altar and then people saying:* As this incense rises before the Heavenly Throne, may the Lord prepare this habitation for His Presence, and send his Holy Angels to build for us a spiritual temple for the meet celebration herein of the Holy Eucharist, and for the pouring forth of God's Blessing upon all people.

All: From the rising of the sun, even unto the going down of the Sun the Lord's name shall be magnified; and in every place incense shall be offered unto His name as a pure offering, for his name is great among the nations (Malachi 1:11).

INTROIT

Priest sings: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, the undivided Unity. Eternal, immortal, invisible, to whom be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

All sing: O Lord our God, how excellent is Thy Name in all the world.

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.

CONFITEOR

Priest (*All kneel*): O Lord, thou hast created us to be immortal and made us to be an image of Thine own eternity; yet often we forget the glory of our heritage and wander from the path which leads to righteousness. But thou, O Lord, hast made us for thyself and our hearts are ever restless till they find their rest in Thee. Look with the eyes of thy love upon our manifold imperfections and pardon all our shortcomings, that we may be filled with the brightness of the everlasting light and become the unspotted mirror of thy power and the image of thy goodness; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison. Christe eleison. Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

ABSOLUTION

Priest: May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit ✠ bless, preserve, and sanctify you. The Lord in his loving kindness look down with love and compassion and be gracious unto you, absolve you of your sins, awaken your heart from its ancient sleep, and grant you the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Priest: Glory to God in the highest...

All: And on Earth, peace to people of good will. We praise you; we bless you; we glorify you; we give you thanks for your great glory. O Lord God heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord Christ, Indwelling Light, Son of the Father whose Wisdom orders all things, pour forth your love and compassion upon us. Thou whose Strength upholds and sustains all creation, receive our prayer. Thou whose Beauty shines through the whole universe, unveil your glory. For you only are holy; you alone are Lord; you alone, O Christ, in unity with the Holy Spirit ✠ are most high, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



1. THE EPISTLE OR OLD TESTAMENT READING: *The Epistle/Old Testament reading is taken from ...Chapter...Verse...*

2. THE GRADUAL. Reader says: They that loveth wisdom loveth life and they that seek her early shall be filled with joy.

All: Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes: and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Thy law with my whole heart.

Reader: Whoso loveth Wisdom loveth life. *The path of the just is as the shining light, shining more and more unto the perfect day.*

All: Blessed are they who find Wisdom. Her ways are pleasant and all her paths are Peace. She is a Tree of Life to those who take hold of her, and happy are those who hold fast to Her (Proverbs 3:18).

3. THE GOSPEL: A reading from the... chapter of the Holy Gospel according to blessed.....beginning at the.....verse.

All: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

After the reading Priest says: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All reply: Praise to Thee of Christ.

4. The Sermon/Homily for the Holy Day or Season. Preceded by the invocation:

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

All: Amen.

When the sermon is complete the Priest says:

And now to God the father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, three persons in one God, be ascribed all honour, might, majesty, power and dominion, now and forevermore.

All: Amen

THE ACT OF FAITH

We believe that God is Love, and Power, and Truth, and Light; That perfect justice rules the world; That all His children shall one day reach His feet, however far they stray. We hold the Parenthood of God, the Brotherhood of man; We know that we do serve God best when best we serve all living beings. So shall the blessing of the Most High rest on us and peace for evermore. Amen.

OR

THE CREED

We believe in God above us, the Creator and sustainer of all life, both seen and unseen. Father and Mother of us all. Maker of sun and moon, fire and air, and water and earth. The Source of all Wisdom, Love, Beauty and Truth. We believe in God beside us, Jesus the Christ, the word made flesh. Our exemplar, teacher and redeemer. He was crucified on the cross of the elements, descended beneath the earth to the place of death and on the third day rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven, and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit, the Divine Spark with our hearts, life-giving breath of the church. She who maintains all of Creation, who is ever present for guidance, comfort, purification, strength, and inspiration. We believe in the Church as a community of the sons and daughters of God, a center for worship, for service, and for spiritual illumination and growth. We believe in a life of prayer balanced with service, and we await the resurrection of the spirit after death, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD



Reader: Lord, accept our prayers to comfort those who in this present and transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, and those loved ones who have passed from this life. God of Life, in your Mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Bless all whose lives are linked with ours and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loved us. Lord most Gracious.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We especially pray for your Holy Universal Church; for our presiding Bishop of the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch (N.....), and for all Bishops, Clergy and religious brothers and sisters who serve you and minister to your people.

All: Blessed are the servants of the Lord.

Reader: We pray for the safety and protection of all the people of our land and the whole world, and good judgment to those whose decisions are influential in preserving the wellbeing and welfare of humanity.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for those people affected by the (recent crisis, war, disaster), that through your grace and blessing they might be strengthened and healed.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Teach us O Lord, to see Thy life in all people and in all beings of the earth, and so guide the nations into the understanding of thy laws that peace and good will may reign upon earth, through Christ our Lord.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Holy Lady Mary, Queen of Love and Compassion, with all our hearts we pour out our love and devotion at Thy feet; and we offer ourselves as channels of Thy wondrous tenderness, and as agents of Thy holy work.

All: O Holy Lady, Mother of the World, we dedicate our lives to thy service.

Reader: Let us say together the prayer of St Francis of Assisi

All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy; Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love *(St Francis of Assisi)*.

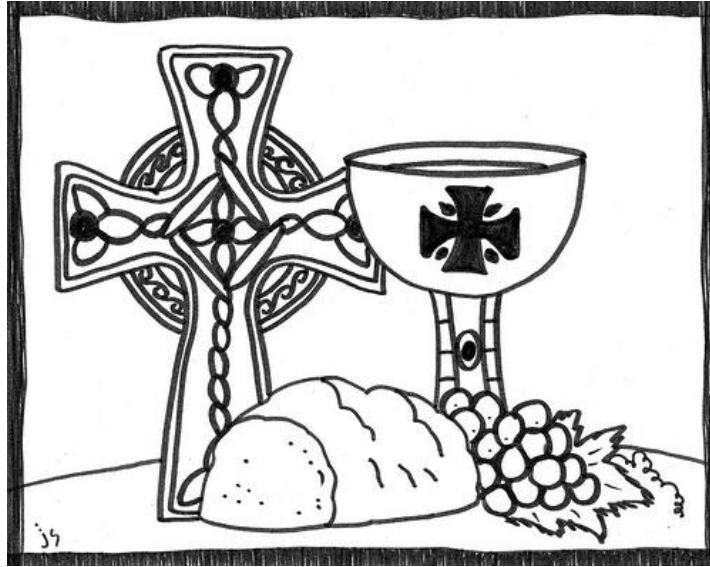
THE TIME OF SILENCE (MEDITATION)

Priest: We weave a silence onto our lips, we weave a silence in our minds. We weave a silence within our hearts, we close our ears to distractions, we close our eyes to attractions, we close our heart to temptation.

All: Calm us as You stilled the storm, still us O Lord and keep us from harm. Enfold us, Divine Beloved, in your peace *(Fr. David Adam, Lindisfarne)*.

10 Minutes meditation or contemplative prayer.

THE COMMUNION & SACRED FEAST



THE OFFERTORIUM

Priest: All things come from ✚ Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

All: Amen. Priest places bread and chalice in centre of altar.

Priest: We adore Thee, O God who art the source of all Life and Goodness and with true and thankful hearts we lay before you these creatures of bread and wine, ✚ linking them spiritually with ourselves and praying that you receive through them our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving that it may help to lift the heavy burdens and sorrows of this world, and knit your children closer unto you.

All: We honour the Lord with our substance, and with the first fruits of our increase; So, shall our barns be filled with plenty, and our presses burst forth good wine.

Priest (Raises bread saying): Blessed are you, God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this bread to offer, harvest of the grain, ripened by the wind, the sun and the rain. May it become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest (Pours wine into the chalice saying): Blessed are you, God of all creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and the work of human hands. It will become for us our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying:

According to immemorial custom, we now mix water with this wine, praying Thee, O Lord, that we may evermore abide in Christ and He in us.

Priest offers the chalice, saying:

We offer unto Thee, O Lord, this chalice with joy and gladness; may the worship which we offer ascend before Thy Divine Majesty as a sacrifice, pure and acceptable in Thy sight; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE SECOND CENSING

The priest censes the elements on the altar then holds censer before altar saying:

Priest: As the smoke of sweet spices arose from the censor of pure gold in the hands of Aaron the Priest, so may the cloud of incense ascend and the compassion from our prayers rise up to Thy Throne O Lord. Let your Holy Angels encompass your people and surround them the spirit of your blessing.

All: As this incense rises before thee, O Lord, so let our prayer be set forth in thy sight. Let thy holy angels encompass thy people and send forth upon us the spirit of thy blessing. Enkindle within us the fire of thy love and the flame of everlasting charity.

LAVABO

Priest chants: I wash my hands of the impurities of the world that I may worthily perform this Eternal Sacrifice of the Life of God into the limitations of matter. I will praise you, O Lord, till the end of days, that the Glory of your Gift may resound through all the worlds. 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.

All: Amen.

ORATE FRATRES

Priest: Receive O Creator, these creatures of bread and wine prepared for the glory of your Holy Name. For here we offer, and present unto your Divine Majesty, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a holy and living sacrifice unto thee.

All: Make the way plain, O Lord, that we may be a center for the radiation of your Power, and a channel whereby your healing Light and Love may approach the World.

SURSUM CORDA

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: And with Thy Spirit

Priest: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up, unto the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God

All: It is meet, right, and our bounden duty. That we shall at all times and in all places, give praise to The One Most High.

PREFACE & SANCTUS

Priest: It is very meet, right and our bounden duty to at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee O lord, holy father, almighty everlasting God (*Here follows the preface if any*). Therefore, with angels and archangels, with thrones, dominions, principalities, virtues, and powers. With cherubim and seraphim, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy holy name.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy. Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory. Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

EPICLESIS

Priest: Loving God, accept we pray Thee these creatures of bread and wine and send down your Holy Spirit to ✠ bless, ✠ transform and ✠ consecrate these earthly channels of your wondrous power. Wherefore, we, your humble servants do offer unto you this most precious Gift which you have bestowed upon us; this Holy Bread of life everlasting (✠ over bread) and the Chalice of eternal salvation (✠ over wine), humbly praying that you will command your Holy Angels to bear our Oblation to your Altar on high, there to be offered by Christ, Who, as the Eternal High Priest forever offers Himself as the eternal sacrifice for the salvation of the world. For on the night before he was willingly sacrificed and left his mortal body, He took bread, broke it and giving thanks to you Most High then he gave it to His disciples saying: This is my body broken for you. Take it and eat all of you, and when you do. Do so in memory of me (*Hold host aloft. Bell 3x.*)

Priest: In like manner after supper, he took the Chalice in his Holy and Venerable hands; and again, gave thanks to Thee Most High, then ✠ blessed it, and gave it to the disciples saying: This is my Blood of the New Covenant poured out for you, bringing forgiveness, making you free. Take it and drink all of you, and when you do. Do so in memory of me (*Priest holds chalice aloft, places on altar, kneel, bell 3x.*)

ALL kneel (or bow heads) as priest chants:

***Through him and with him and in him
O God, almighty Father. In the unity of the Holy Spirit
All Power and Blessing are yours
Now and forever. Amen.***

THE COMMUNION

Priest: In obedience to the command of our blessed Lord, and following the universal practice of His Holy Church, let us together say:

THE ARAMAIC PRAYER OF JESUS

All: Divine Creator, Father and Mother of the Universe. Holy is Your Name. Focus your Light within me, make it useful. Create your reign of unity now on Earth below as above in the heavens. Grant me what sustenance I need each day, for my soul and for my body. Loose the cords of mistakes that bind me. Do not let surface things delude me but free me from the times of trial. From you is born all that is, through you I live, and move and have my being. For the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMEMORATION OF THE SAINTS

Priest: We praise and thank You, O Ancient of Ancients for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in Holy Mother Mary, Queen of Heaven and Star of the Sea and for all the just men and women made perfect - the Watchers, Saints and Holy Ones especially St Michael and the Archangels, Saints Francis and Clare, St Benedict, St Alban, St Columba of the Holy Isle of Iona, and all Apostles, Martyrs, Patriarchs, and Prophets who have been shining beacons of your Light throughout the ages.

All: May we be inspired by their Holy Example

THE MYSTERY

Priest: O Son of God, who showeth Thyself this day upon a thousand altars and yet are one and indivisible, in token of your great sacrifice we break this your Body...
(breaks host in half over chalice and with a small particle thereof makes the + thrice over the chalice and finally at the words "we unite" drops particle into chalice)
and in token of your triumph over death, the reuniting of your Soul and Body, and your glorious resurrection, we unite this your Body with this your Blood; Praying that

we being dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto righteousness, may be one with you even as you art one with the Father; and that this action ordained from of old, *your* ✠ *Grace, your* ✠ *Blessing and your* ✠ *Spiritual Sustenance, which you do give us in this holy sacrament, may be spread out upon thy world.*

CANTICLE: PSALM CXXII

Priest Sings: I was glad when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord: I will be glad and rejoice, and so will I go unto thine altar:

All Sing: O send out Thy Light and Truth to lead me, and bring me, to Thy Holy Hill: That I may go unto the Altar of God, even unto the God, of my joy and gladness. O magnify the Lord our God, and worship him upon his holy hill: for the Lord our God is Holy. The Lord shall give strength, unto his people. The Lord shall give his people, the blessing of peace. (Psalm 122).

SALUTATION OF PEACE

Priest: O Lord, Jesus Christ, you did say to your apostles; "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you;" regard not our shortcomings, but the faith of your Church and grant Her that peace and unity which are agreeable to your holy will; you who lives and reigns. One God, without beginning or end, unto the ages of ages.

All: Source of light, your wisdom upholds the earth, pour forth your love; Guiding word, your strength sustains all Creation, receive our prayer; Timeless One, your beauty shows through all living things, Grant us your peace.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: *And with Thy spirit*

THE SACRED FEAST

Priest: O Thou who in this adorable Sacrament hast left us a living memorial and pledge of Thy marvelous love for humanity, and dost therein graciously draw us into wondrous and mystic communion with Thee, grant us so to receive the sacred mysteries of Thy Body and Blood that our souls may be lifted into the immensity of Thy love, and that, being filled with a high endeavour, we may ever be mindful of Thine indwelling Presence and walk the path of a holy life.

All: Lord, prepare us to eat of the Bread of Everlasting Life, and drink from the Holy Chalice of Immortality. Open our eyes that we may see, and our hearts that we may understand.

Priest: (*Raise chalice & bread say*) All are invited to share in this communion for the Lord's Supper belongs to All his people. Draw near and receive this Most Precious Sacrament through which our souls shall be healed.

All who would partake of the Sacraments approach the Communion rail and kneel.

Priest: The Bread of Life, the Body of Christ.

Priest: The Cup of Salvation, the Holy Blood.

PRAYER OF THE VEIL

Priest: Under the veil of earthly things have we had Communion with the Risen Lord, and aligning with That Presence, we are transfigured for we know that we are truly the Temple of God, and the Divine Spirit Dwells within us.

All: We who have been refreshed by thy heavenly gifts do pray O Lord that Thy Grace and Peace be so grafted inwardly in our hearts that it may continually be made manifest in our lives; through Christ our Lord. Amen

THE BENEDICTION

Priest: There is a peace that passeth all understanding; it abides in the hearts of those who live in the eternal. There is a power that makes all things new; it lives and moves in those who know the Self and the Divine as One. May that peace brood over you, and that power uplift you, till you stand where the One Initiator is invoked, and you see His star shine forth ✚

CLOSING PRAYER

Priest: Before we depart, let us pray to the Lord: Creator God, through your Love all things were made, through your Power all things are governed. Through your Wisdom all things are sustained. Thank you for all that is good, for our creation and for our humanity, for the Guardianship you have given us as Custodians of this earth.

All: Open our eyes to behold your works, that we may learn to serve you with gladness and praise and bless you in all things.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest (*Putting out candles*): Heaven has intertwined with Earth, therefore let us go forth by the Power of the Creator, by the Love of the Redeemer, with the Wisdom of the Giver of Life. In the faith of the apostles, in the joyful praise of the angels, in the holiness of the saints, and in the courage of the martyrs.

All: The Power of God protects us, the Love of God enfolds us, the Wisdom of God enlightens us. The Divine Spark shines within us.

CLOSING HYMN: PHOS HILARON

(3rd-4th Century)

O Gladsome Light of the Holy Glory, of the Divine Creator, Heavenly Holy.
Now that we have come, at the setting of the sun to behold the light of evening.
We praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
For meet it is at all times, to worship Him with voices of praise.
O Source of Light, and Giver of life.
Wherefore all the world doth glorify Thee.