

THE CELTIC MASS

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



**The Society of St Columba
Aotearoa - New Zealand**



CONTEMPLATIVE MEDITATION

- We are now going to enter into 15 minutes of contemplative meditation in preparation for the eucharist this evening. Sit with your back straight. Allow your body to relax. Begin to notice your breath flowing in and out at its natural speed. When using the sacred breath, you do not hold your attention on the breath continuously but simply notice it...touching it gently with your attention.
- Choose a sacred word of one or two syllables as the symbol of your intention to be open to God's presence. Choose any short word with which you are comfortable. Examples could be: Silence, Stillness, Faith, Trust, Holy Spirit, God, Lord Jesus, Father, Mother, Mary, Amen, Love, Listen, Peace, Mercy, or many more. If you would like, you can dedicate the period of prayer to a person or concern.
- Sitting comfortably and gently closing your eyes, silently begin to repeat your sacred word, which points you gently towards God's presence. When you are ready, you can let go of the sacred word and simply rest in God.

When you notice that you have become engaged with your thoughts, sensations or emotions gently disengage yourself and turn towards God's presence, returning to the sacred word or your breath if necessary.

- At the end of the meditation period, when you hear the three tolls of the bell remain in silence with your eyes closed for a few moments, then gently return and open your eyes when you are ready, noticing and observing your surroundings and also any sensations, feelings or thoughts that have arisen. This is an important transition. Allow yourself the space to observe and notice without judgement.

Let us now enter into the silence and rest in the peace of God.

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*).

***15 Minutes Contemplative Meditation commenced and ended by 3 tolls of bell.
Alternatively, for certain occasions one of the following hymns may be sung.***

Opening Hymn I:
ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL

(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 II: 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 is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ✠

All: Now and forever. Unto the ages of ages. 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 the Lord: Blesséd are you, maker of marvellous works – the bright Sun shining in the heavens and on earth the green hills, and the white-waved sea. Your infinite greatness enfolds the universe, suspending the earth above the waters, and illumining the night sky with the moon and stars (*St Moucan, Welsh 8th century*).

All: Be Thou a bright flame before us, a guiding star above us, and a smooth path beneath us. Kindle in our hearts the flame of love that never ceases, set on fire by your eternal light which puts to flight the darkness of this world (*St Columba, 6th Century*).

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

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.

CHANT: PHOS HILARON

(3rd Century AD)

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.

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 do I expel all evil from this His Holy Altar and sanctuary, and from this House, wherein we worship Him (*sprinkling people 3 x*). The Lord has said: I will gather you from among the nations and bring you from every land and 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*): May the Lord sanctify and bless this Holy Place, that the incense smoke may rise up to the heavens as a pure offering. And may the Lord send his Holy Angels to build for us a spiritual temple through which His strength and blessing may be poured forth upon all people. *Cense altar and then 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*).

CONFITEOR

Priest (*All kneel or bow heads*): Eternal Spirit, who gives life to all existence and who art the root of all things. Look with Love and Compassion upon our manifold imperfections, and pardon all our shortcomings. Wash us clean, wipe out our mistakes, heal our wounds and awaken our hearts from their ancient sleep.

All: Amen

KYRIE

(All kneel or bow heads and chant)

**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, forgive your transgressions, awaken your heart from its ancient sleep, and grant you the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

THE BREASTPLATE OF ST PATRICK

Priest: Let us bind ourselves today, to the strong name of the Trinity, to the virtues of the starlit heavens; The Glorious Sun's life-giving rays, the brilliance of Moon-glow pale, the flashing of Lightning fire, the whirling wind's strongest gale. The stable earth, the deep salt sea around the vast expanse of land. Let us bind ourselves to God's great power, the wisdom of the Lord to teach; His Lamp to guide, his staff to ward; The Holy Spirit to inspire our speech; The heavenly hosts to be our guard (*St Patrick, 5th Century*).

All: Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. At the setting of the sun, by this task that we have done. We bind our souls O God to Thee. Father, Son, and Spirit Three.

OR

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. **Reader Prays:** Lord Jesus, be with us, for the evening is at hand and the day is past. Lord, thou hast given us thy Word for a light to shine upon our path; Grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching. Awaken our minds with your wisdom and enkindle our hearts with your divine love that we may know you as you are revealed in the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord (*Adapted from a prayer by St Jerome, C. 342 – 420 AD*).

All: Amen.

2. **THE EPISTLE:** *The Epistle is taken from chapter... verse...*
3. **Readers says the Gradual:** *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*).

4. **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/Reader says: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All reply: Praise to Thee of Christ.

5. The Sermon/Homily/Poem for the Holy Day or Season.

CREEDS OF THE FAITH

OPTION I: THE IONA COMMUNITY CREED

All: We believe in God above us, the maker and sustainer of all life, both seen and unseen. Father and Mother of us all. Maker of sun and moon, and water and earth. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present, 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, Spirit of healing and purification, and the source of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. 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.

Option II: TIRECHAN'S CREED

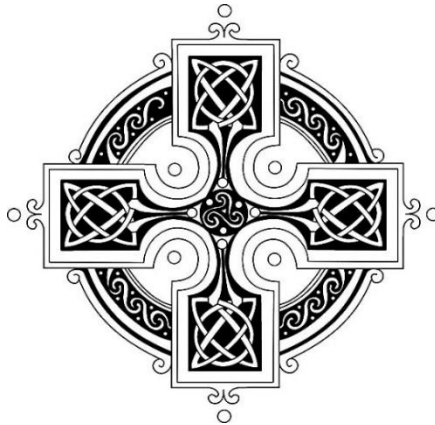
(The Book of Armagh, 7th Century Irish Text)

All: Our God is the God of all people, the God of heaven and earth and the sea and rivers, the God of sun and moon, and of all the stars, the God of the lofty mountains and the lowly valleys. God inspires all things and gives life to all things, stands above all things and yet is within all things. God has a Son who is co-eternal with himself; and the Holy Spirit breathes in them. And the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are One and inseparable.

Option III: 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.**

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 (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 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, (Optional: Andrew of Scotland, Ninian of the shining household of faith, Brendan the navigator of spiritual pilgrimage, David of Wales, Patrick Apostle of the Irish, Brigid mid-wife and keeper of the flame, Kentigern faithful pilgrim and founder of communities, Columba of the Holy Isle of Iona, Aidan gentle shepherd and apostle of England, Ita foster-mother of Celtic saints, Morgan father of Celtic theology, Columbanus pious teacher, Ciaran friend of God's creatures, Declan, prince and healer, Colman, defender of the Faith) 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

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: Saint Brigid, you were a woman of peace. You brought harmony where there was conflict. You brought light to the darkness, and hope to the downcast. May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious, and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world. Inspire us to act justly and to revere all God has made. Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary. Strengthen what is weak within us. Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

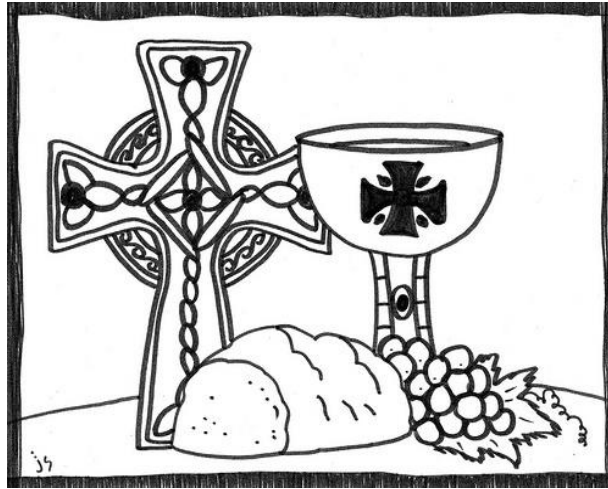
All: May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.

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, 13th Century AD).*

Music or a Hymn is played while a collection is taken.

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 a little water into the chalice, saying*):

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

All: By the Mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

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 Holy Ones 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 Divine Creator.

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 creation's elements all around us, the radiant sun, the white glowing moon, the flowing waters, and the trees, rocks and ferns. 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. as we do join in the song that echoes throughout the universe.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy. Lord God of Power and Might. 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: High King of the Universe, who sustains the worlds - accept we pray Thee, these creatures of bread and wine and send down your Holy Spirit to ✠ bless, ✠ consecrate ✠ and transform these earthly channels of your wondrous power and imbue them with the Holy presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he may be known to us in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of this wine.

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.**)

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:

Option I: THE LORDS 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 let us enter not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Option II: ALTERNATIVE LORDS PRAYER

(New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book)

**All: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.**

Option III: 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.

THE MYSTERY

Priest: O Son of God, who does show yourself this day upon a thousand altars and yet are one and indivisible, in token of your great sacrifice we break this bread as a symbol of your Body *(breaks host in half over chalice and with a small particle 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, we unite it with this wine as a symbol of your blood; Praying that we may likewise be one with you, even as you are One with the Father. By this action ordained from of old, we pray that 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.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And with Thy spirit

THE SACRED FEAST

Priest: O Lord who in this adorable Sacrament has left us a living memorial and pledge of your marvelous love for humanity, graciously draw us into mystic communion with you, that our souls may be lifted into the immensity of your love, and that, being filled with a high endeavour, we may ever be mindful of your 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: Wisdom hath built her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars; She hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. She crieth "Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled. Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding" (*Proverbs 1: 1-6*).

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 altar.

Priest: (*Gives host to each saying*): The Bread of Life.

Priest: (*Gives cup to drink saying*): The Cup of Salvation.

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 Blessings be so grafted inwardly in our hearts that they may continually be made manifest in our lives; through Christ our Lord. Amen

THE CELTIC BENEDECTION

Priest: Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the glowing hearth to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the moon and stars to you. The deep peace of the Son of Peace to you; and may the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Giver of Life be amongst you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Priest: Before we depart, let us pray: O Holy Jesus, gentle friend, true and loving brother, morning star, midday sun adorned, fountain of life. Son of the merciful father, without mother in heaven. Son of the Virgin Mary, without father on earth. Grant and impart to us the Grace of the Holy Spirit to protect and preserve us, this night and forever more (*The Besom of Devotion, Early Irish Prayer, 8th Century*).

All: Through the dark hours of the night protect and surround us. Father, Son and Spirit three ✠.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Heaven has intertwined with Earth, therefore let us go forth by the Power of the Creator, (*Extinguish Lamp*), the Love of the Redeemer, (*Extinguish Left candle*) and the Wisdom of the Giver of Life (*Extinguish Right candle*), 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: 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*).

CLOSING HYMN: NUNC DIMITTIS

(The Song of Simeon)

Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,
according to Thy word.

For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared, for the Blessing of all people.

To be a light amongst the gentiles,
and to be the glory, of Thy people Israel.

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.

