

THE CELTIC MASS

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



**The Chapel of St Columba
The Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch
Auckland, New Zealand**

Processional Hymn I: Be Thou My Vision

Translated from Gaelic to English by Eleanor Hull, 1912

(All Rise and Sing)

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision O Ruler of All.

INVOCATION

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

All: Amen ✠

OPENING PRAYER

Priest: 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: 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. (6th Century Collect).

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.

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*).

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*): Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid. Look with Love and Compassion upon our manifold imperfections, and pardon all our shortcomings.

All: May your living flame burn all dross away, your fountain of water wash over us, and your cleansing wind blow through us, so that we may be filled with the brightness of the Limitless Light.

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.

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

1. **THE EPISTLE:** *The Epistle/Old Testament reading is taken from ...Chapter...Verse...*
2. **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).*
3. **THE GOSPEL:** A reading from the... chapter of the Holy Gospel according to blessed.....beginning at the.....verse.
4. **THE SERMON/HOMILY**

CREEDS OF THE FAITH

OPTION I: THE IONA COMMUNITY CREED

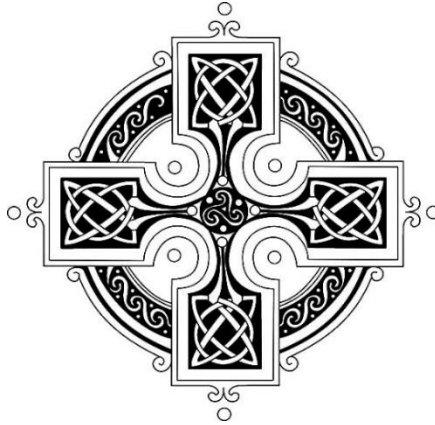
All: We believe in God above us, the maker and sustainer of all life, both seen and unseen. Father and Mother of us all. Maker of sun and moon, and water and earth. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man 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. 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.

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, 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.

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

All: Amen.

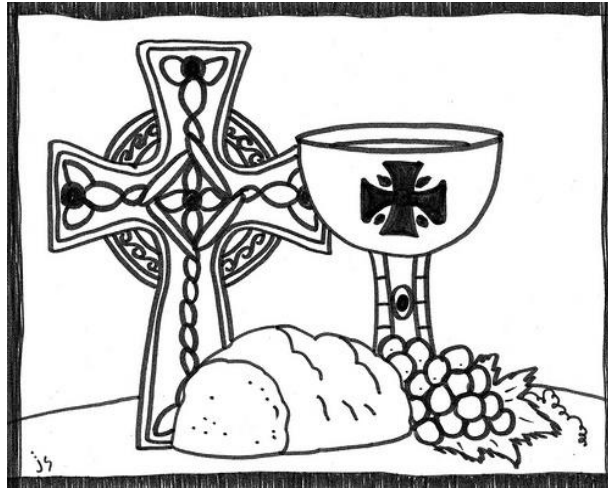
THE TIME OF SILENCE

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 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 the spirits of nature, with Angels and Archangels, and with the Holy Saints, Prophets and Sages of all ages we do join in the song that echoes throughout the universe.

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: 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, ✠ 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.*)

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 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.

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 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 are 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: Deep within the still centre of my being may I find peace. Silently within the quiet of this chapel may we share peace. Powerfully within the greater circle of humanity, may we radiate peace. 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: *(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: *(Gives host to each saying):* The Bread of Heaven, the Body of Christ.

Priest: *(Gives cup to drink saying):* 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 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 (Early Irish)

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.

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. Amen.

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: 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.**