

Opening musical meditation

Officiant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Officiant Almighty and merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all that hinders our complete love for you, one another, and your world. Make us ready to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **People: Amen.**

O Gracious Light *Phos Hilaron*

**All: O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

Officiant: O God, by your Holy Spirit you moved Teresa of Avila to manifest to your Church the way of perfection: Grant us, we pray, to be nourished by her teaching, and enkindle within us a keen and unquenchable longing for true holiness; through Jesus Christ, the joy of loving hearts, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

Officiant God is in you.

People And also in you.

Officiant Let us pray.

All say together

**Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
Mirror of God's eternal face,
Transparent flame of love's free duty,
You bring salvation to the human race.
Now, as we see the lights of evening,
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;
Worthy are you of endless blessing,
Sun of our night, lamp of our days. (Adapted)**

Meditative music is offered as we prepare to receive the nourishment of the Word.

Reader: A reading from the gospel of Mark.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. (1:35-39)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Conversation on the Word

Officiant God is in you.

People And also in you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Prayer of Thanks

Officiant: O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding, which has brought us to birth and has opened our eyes. **People: We give you thanks.**

Officiant: For your love for us, wild and freeing, which has awakened us to the energy of creation: to the sap that flows, the blood that pulses, and the heart that sings. **People: We give you thanks.**

Officiant: For your love for us, compassionate and patient, which has carried us through our pain, wept beside us in our sin, and waited with us in our confusion. **People: We give you thanks.**

Officiant: For your love for us, strong and challenging, which has called us to risk for you, asked for the best in us, and shown us how to serve. **People: We give you thanks.**

Officiant: O God, we come to celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us, and at the heart of all life. Forgive us when we forget your gift of love. Awaken us to the love that Christ offers, and draw us into your presence. *—from Iona Abbey Worship Book, 141ff.*

All: "May today there be peace within. May [we] trust God that [we] are exactly where [we] are meant to be. May [we] not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May [we] use those gifts that [we] have received, and pass on the love that has been given to [us]. May [we] be content knowing [we] are a child of God. Let this presence settle into [our] bones, and allow [our] souls the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us."

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.

Holy Eucharist

On that night before he died Jesus took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his friends saying: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and gave you thanks. He gave it to his friends and said: Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sin; do this to remember me.

Therefore with this bread we recall your goodness to us.

By your Holy Spirit, may we who receive Christ's body, be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite. Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.

For you, the heavenly one, make all things new; you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first, to whom we bring our songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.

A musical meditation is offered while the people receive the holy food made for God's holy people.

Closing Prayer

**All: In the busyness of this day
grant us a stillness of seeing, O God.
In the conflicting voices of our hearts
grant us calmness of hearing.
Let our seeing and hearing
our words and actions
be rooted in a silent certainty of your presence.
Let our passions for life
and the longings for justice that stir within us
be grounded in the experience of your stillness.
Let our lives be rooted in the ground of your peace, O God,
let us be rooted in the depths of your peace.**

Blessing

Dismissal

"Christ has no body now, but yours. No hands, no feet on earth, but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world. Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world." ~Teresa of Avila

Therefore, go now with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit to bless the world. **People: Amen.**