

## CELEBRATING THE LITURGY

*(It is important at the beginning of every celebration to remember all the members of the community, whether they be present with us or not. It is especially important to remember the sick and elderly, and all who serve this community.)*

### GATHERING IN:

**Leader:!** May God's grace and peace be with us today as we celebrate being God's people.

**All:** **Glory and praise to our God.**

**Leader:** Let us now pause for a moment to reflect on how our relationship with God influences the way we live. *(Pause)* Now let us ask forgiveness for any failings.

### **Confession and Mutual Absolution**

**Leader:** God, you have searched us out and known us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned: we have used our power to dominate and our weakness to manipulate; we have evaded responsibility and failed to confront evil; we have denied dignity to ourselves and to each other, and fallen into despair.

**ALL: We turn to you, O God; we renounce evil; we claim your love; we choose to be made whole.**

*In turn, around the circle, we say for each other, 'Your sins are forgiven, be at peace'. This can be accompanied by a gesture such as taking hands, or making the sign of the cross on the forehead.*

**Leader:** We will now praise our God together:

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Loving God, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for all that you are.**

**We praise you for Jesus and for the great example he gives us about how to live our lives as human beings. Amen.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**Leader:** Let us pray together.

**All: God of grace, your care extends beyond the boundaries of race and nation to the hearts of all who live. May the walls, which prejudice raises between us, crumble beneath the shadow of your outstretched arm. We make our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## SHARING THE STORY

### FIRST READING

**A reading from the ...**

**The Word of the Lord. All:** Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE *(or the Psalm of the Day is encouraged...)*

**Reader:** Let us respond in prayer to God's Word. Psalm 40:1-4 (MsgB) A David psalm

**All:** I waited and waited and waited for God. At last he looked; finally he listened.

[2] He lifted me out of the ditch, pulled me from deep mud.

He stood me up on a solid rock to make sure I wouldn't slip.

[3] He taught me how to sing the latest God-song, a praise-song to our God.

More and more people are seeing this: they enter the mystery, abandoning themselves to God.

[4] Blessed are you who give yourselves over to God, turn your backs on the world's "sure thing."

## THE GOSPEL

**A reading from the Gospel of ...**

**The Gospel of the Lord. All:** Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION *(After the reading, there could be a time for some private reflection and/or and for sharing thoughts of the Readings and the Reflection.)*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(these or similar is encouraged)*

**Leader:** God our most holy Friend, we pour out our hearts to you for this world, for all its people with many and changing needs...

1. We yearn for violence to cease, for justice and peace to become real in every community. God in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

2. We desire poverty and homelessness to be abolished and disease to be understood and healed. God in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

3. We feel for all the unemployed and all who work in degrading professions. God in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

4. We covet a society where the youth are not corrupted and the elderly not neglected. God in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

4. We want the resources of the land, sea and air to be used more prudently, so that our grandchildren, and theirs, may have a good inheritance.

God in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

6. We long for an Australian nation that takes a lead rather than mimic the faults of larger and more powerful nations. God in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

7. Any particular needs of those gathered... *(shared freely...)*

**Leader:** Holy friend, especially help each of us to respect and cherish every person, both in the Christian community and in the secular community. Make us flag bearers for your new world of integrity, hope, faith, compassion and joy. **Amen!**

*If there is to be a Communion Service, then it begins here.*

## PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**Leader:** Give thanks to the Lord for God is good.

**All:** **God's mercy endures forever.**

**Leader:** We give you thanks, Lord our God, for this world which you have given us. You never cease to renew it, and through the work of our hands you seek to make it better.

**All:** **Glory to God in the highest.**

**Leader:** You have made all people in your image; each of us is made in your likeness, with the ability to recognise the outline of your face in our brothers and sisters.

**All:** **Glory to God in the highest.**

**Leader:** You did not want to be distant from us,  
and so you taught us how to recognise you through the words of Moses  
and the prophets, who told us the wonderful story of your love.

**All:** **Glory to God in the highest.**

**Leader:** But you came even closer to us through Jesus.  
In Jesus, you walked through our streets, you looked on us through human  
eyes, and in many ways lived like us.

**All:** **Glory to God in the highest.**

**Leader:** And so, today, we are joined with all Christian people in the world,  
and we pray to you as brothers and sisters:

**All:** **Our Father, you are in heaven, but you are also here among us.**  
**May your name be praised. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as**  
**it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread,**  
**and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who hurt us.**  
**Keep us free from temptation, and deliver us from evil.**  
**For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Leader:** Let us now give to those around us a sign of peace.

*After the Sign of Peace has been given,  
The Leader then places the blessed bread and wine on the table.  
The Leader then takes a wafer and cup (if used), raises it and says:*

**Leader:** God's holy gifts for God's holy people:

let us receive them with thanksgiving in our heart...

**All:** **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*The Minister(s) then distributes Holy Communion, after which there is a pause for reflection and  
thanksgiving. (After the Communion if there has been one, there could be a time for quiet prayer, after  
which the Leader brings the service to a close.)*

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Leader:** Let us pray together.

**All:** **Eternal God, our celebration of your Word makes us one in faith, hope and  
love. By our becoming more like Jesus may we come to share your glory in life-  
after-life. Amen.**

### **STEPPING OUT WITH GOD**

**Leader:** May the Lord be with you. **All:** And also with you.

Go out into the world in peace and love.

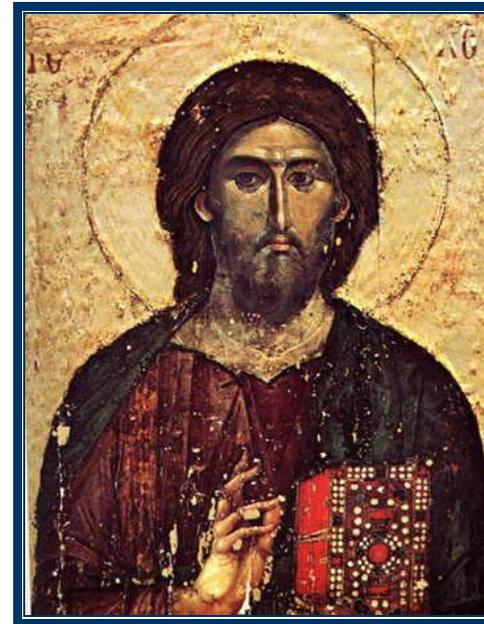
Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the doors will open.

Ask not for challenges to match your wisdom but for wisdom to match the  
challenges.

In the name of God, we ask More Divine grace than we can contain, more love than we can  
measure, more friendship than we can explore, will be with us now and ever more.

**Amen!**

# **A LITURGY** **of** **WORD and COMMUNION** **outside the Eucharist**



## **Patmos Companions**

*One heart. One soul. Many Companions.*

Celtic Rite of the Catholic Church