



REJOICE

Orlagh in the City

Gaudete Sunday

December 14th 2025



Welcome – Reflection –Advent Candle

Wait for the lord his day is near
Wait for the lord, be strong take heart
Taize, Repeat x4



FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-6,10

God himself is coming to save you

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
Let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
Let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
Let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
The splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
The splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
Steady all trembling knees
And say to all faint hearts,
Courage! Do not be afraid.
Look, your God is coming,
Vengeance is coming,
The retribution of God;
He is coming to save you.'



Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
The ears of the deaf unsealed,
Then the lame shall leap like a deer
And the tongues of the dumb sing for joy
For those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
Everlasting joy on their faces;
Joy and gladness will go with them
And sorrow and lament be ended.

PSALM God's Spirit is in my heart no. 864



SECOND READING James 5:7-10

Do not lose heart; the Lord's coming will be soon

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains!

You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

ALLELUIA Matthew 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor

Alleluia, alleluia.



Rejoice

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

'A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him; Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' **Jesus answered,** 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

**Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
He will prepare your way before you.**

I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.

MUSIC - [CHÚILFHIONN](#)

LECTIO:

Share how the Word speaks to your life. Not a Bible Study or a discussion.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Welcome to the Table

Gather around for the table is set.
Welcome and take your place.
Wide is our circle with Christ at the heart,
Sharing our sacred space.

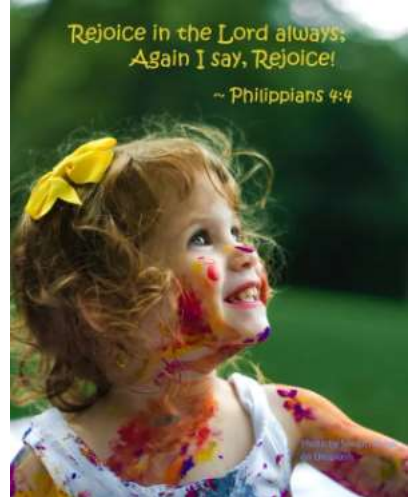


Rejoice

CHORUS:

**This is the banquet open to all,
Spirit to nourish life.
Here at this meal,
here in this place,
Gratefully we receive.**

Calling forth adults the table to share,
Co-celebrating as one.
The gift of each table our daily prayer
The chant of thanksgiving is sung.



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- 1.** We come before you, Gracious and Holy One,
Mindful of all that is desecrated on earth,
Of all that is diminished through greed and exploitation,
Of the wounded lives amid violence and warfare,
And the broken hearts caused by unjust systems.
- 2.** Forgive us for our collusion with sin and injustice,
Our thoughtless exploitation of earth's resources,
Our addiction to false power and glory,
And our failures to honour the integrity of others.

1. beyond the limitations that inhibit our call to change,
We trust in the empowering grace of your freedom and love,
And we acclaim your gracious goodness in these words of praise:

HOLY ...

*Let all that is within me, cry **Holy x2***

Holy, Holy, Holy is the source of our being

1. Blessed be those who heed the call to love and justice, those who go the extra mile, who risk their lives to deliver the freedom, hope and new life which Jesus desires for all, as God's New Reign is awakened on earth.

2. In the power of the Spirit we all awaken to the call
To become agents for peace and justice
And bring about on earth the right relationships
Through which all can grow and flourish.

All

**That same Spirit we now invoke upon the earthly gifts
of this table, bread from the grain, wine from the grape,
That they may become for us empowering nourishment,
The Body and Blood of Christ, to sustain us on the journey forth**

Cocel.

We recall and celebrate the many meals at which Jesus gathered the beloved community in which God was blessed,
Bread was broken, and shared among all with these words:
Take this all of you, eat and drink; for this is my body
which will be given up for you.

... **Cocel.**

At the end of the meal Jesus took another cup,
Symbolizing all that was poured out to satisfy thirsting souls.
Sharing the cup with all gathered at table, Jesus said:
Take this all of you and drink from it, for this is the cup
of my lifeblood, the life of the new and eternal covenant,
Which will be poured out for you and for all, in a spirit
of prophetic solidarity. Do this in memory of me.

Eucharistic Acclamation

Let all that is within me cry Blessed x2

Blessed, Blessed, Blessed is the source of our being.

1. in solidarity with those who have given their lives
for a better world, we call to mind the gift of God's empowering
grace, bestowed throughout the ages,
And we look forward with renewed hope for the breaking dawn
of a new creation, where love and justice will flourish anew.

All

**May the empowering Spirit unite us as a true community
committed to love and justice in our world, seeking peace
And reconciliation beyond all that divides and alienates**

2. Strengthen us in the bonds of solidarity and mutual support
For those agencies committed to the newness of
God's Reign on earth, and with all who lead us forth
as people of faith, trusting in God's enduring faithfulness,
To bring our deepest hopes to a fruitful realisation,
Trusting in the empowering grace of divine providence.

All

We make our prayer in the name of the One
Who is our Creator, Liberator and Holy Spirit,
Blessing us with the gift of abundant life,
This day and forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL

LORDS PRAYER

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, source of all life.
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your reign of peace and freedom sustain the gift of hope.

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, 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 forever.

Amen *New Zealand Prayer Book.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



HYMN FOR THE ROAD AHEAD

Love is the Boat for the Journey



You are the way to Heaven's yielding fold;
You are the truth bringing freedom.
You are the life burning deep within our hearts,
And you are the boat for the journey.

You are the stream where flows the path of life,
Guiding the way for disciples.
Though storms may arise, you calm the fear inside,
For you are the boat for the journey.

You are our God, the living, saving Word,
You are the banquet of justice.
You know our pain, you lift us from our shame,
For you are the boat for the journey.



We'll sing a song of never-ending joy,
Filled with the truth of your Gospel.
With faith, hope and love, we claim your living word,
For you are the boat for our journey

