

ADVENT 2022

And the Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us

In a certain sense Mary lived her *Eucharistic faith* even before the institution of the Eucharist, by the very fact that *she offered her virginal womb for the Incarnation of God's Word*. The Eucharist, while commemorating the passion and resurrection, is also in continuity with the incarnation. At the Annunciation Mary conceived the Son of God in the physical reality of his body and blood, thus anticipating within herself what to some degree happens sacramentally in every believer who receives, under the signs of bread and wine, the Lord's body and blood.

As a result, there is a profound analogy between the *Fiat* which Mary said in reply to the angel, and the *Amen* which every believer says when receiving the body of the Lord. Mary was asked to believe that the One whom she conceived "through the Holy Spirit" was "the Son of God" (Lk 1:30-35). In continuity with the Virgin's faith, in the Eucharistic mystery we are asked to believe that the same Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary, becomes present in his full humanity and divinity under the signs of bread and wine.

"Blessed is she who believed" (Lk 1:45). Mary also anticipated, in the mystery of the incarnation, the Church's Eucharistic faith. When, at the Visitation, she bore in her womb the Word made flesh, she became in some way a "tabernacle" – the first "tabernacle" in history – in which the Son of God, still invisible to our human gaze, allowed himself



to be adored by Elizabeth, radiating his light as it were through the eyes and the voice of Mary. And is not the enraptured gaze of Mary as she contemplated the face of the newborn Christ and cradled him in her arms that unparalleled model of love which should inspire us every time we receive Eucharistic communion?

(From Saint John Paul II's Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 55)

**hail, true body,
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,
who has truly suffered,
and was sacrificed on the
CROSS FOR MANKIND,
whose side was pierced,
whence flowed water
and blood, be for us a
foretaste of heaven,
during our final trial.**

The Angelus

**V. The Angel of the Lord
declared unto Mary.**

**R. And she conceived of the Holy
Spirit.**

Hail Mary . . .

**V. Behold the handmaid of the
Lord.**

**R. Be it done unto me according
to thy word.**

Hail Mary . . .

**V. And the Word was made
Flesh.**

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary . . .

**V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of
God.**

**R. That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray.

**Pour forth, we beseech Thee,
O Lord, Thy grace into our
hearts, that we to whom the
Incarnation of Christ Thy Son
was made known by the
message of an angel,
may by His Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of
His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ Our
Lord. Amen.**

*The Angelus is traditionally
prayed by the Church three times
a day at 6 a.m., Noon, and 6 p.m.
as we pause to remember the
Incarnation of God the Son in the
womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

The "Virgin of the Inexhaustible Chalice"
icon written by Roberta K. Davis,
parishioner of Holy Name of Jesus
Parish, Harrisburg.

Praying with the Word of God: Advent Readings

FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
<i>Sunday</i> Mk 13:33-37	<i>Sunday</i> Mk 1:1-8	<i>Sunday</i> Jn 1:6-8, 19-28	<i>Sunday</i> Ps 89
<i>Monday</i> Is 2:1-5	<i>Monday</i> Ps 85	<i>Monday</i> Jer 23:5-8	<i>Monday</i> Mt 1:1-17
<i>Tuesday</i> Ps 72	<i>Tuesday</i> Zech 2:14-17	<i>Tuesday</i> Jgs 13:2-7	<i>Tuesday</i> Lk 2:1-6
<i>Wednesday</i> Is 25:6-10	<i>Wednesday</i> Ps 103	<i>Wednesday</i> Is 7:10-14	<i>Wednesday</i> Lk 2:7-12
<i>Thursday</i> Matt 7:21-27	<i>Thursday</i> Lk 1:26-38	<i>Thursday</i> Sgs 2:8-14	<i>Thursday</i> Lk 2:13-18
<i>Friday</i> Ps 98	<i>Friday</i> Matt 11:16-19	<i>Friday</i> Lk 1:57-66	<i>Friday</i> Lk 2:19-20
<i>Saturday</i> Is 30:19-21	<i>Saturday</i> Sir 48:1-11	<i>Saturday</i> Lk 1:67-79	<i>Saturday</i> Mt 1:18-25



“Faith consists in accepting God without asking him to account for things according to our standard. Faith consists in reacting before God as Mary did: I don’t understand it, Lord, but let it be done in me according to your word.”

- Saint Oscar Romero

Daily Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As we make the Sign of the Cross, the leader says:

**Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R/. Who made heaven and earth.**

A song may be sung as the candle is lighted

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Opening Prayer

Open our minds and our hearts, O Lord, to hear your word of promise! Send us the Holy Spirit to guide us through these holy days. Quiet our worries and anxieties and help us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ who is Lord for ever and ever. R/. Amen.

Scripture Reading (see Daily Readings)

A reflection may be shared about the Reading

Concluding Prayer

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation. May He come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

As we make the Sign of the Cross, we say:

**May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil,
and bring us everlasting life. R/. Amen.**