

# **SIMBANG GABI**

## **Thursday, December 23, 2004**

- Rituals for the day:
1. Preparation of the Altar by 2 Elderly Couples
  2. Presentation of personal gifts of different families
  3. "Mano Po" – Lector goes to the Presider for a blessing before reading and used as the Sign of Peace.

**PRELUDE**            *( Just before the Liturgy, a commentator will read the explanation of the significance of the elderly couples preparing the altar*

Commentator            Giving and showing respect for the elderly is one of the enduring Filipino values that remain to this day. In the preparation of the altar by two elderly couples, we highlight the important role of the elderly who lead us in the observance of religious traditions with the semblance of preparing a "special dinner" for the community. We look up to the experience and examples of the elderly in many aspects of true hospitality and family service to the church and the community.

Today, we continue our practice of "Mano Po" to show respect for our elders and our Priest.

### **I. INTRODUCTORY RITE**

**Entrance Rite**            *(entrance procession: cross bearer, parol bearer, altar servers, lector and presider)*

**Greeting**

Presider:            **"In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."**

All:                    Amen.

Presider: **(Peace be with you)**  
**The grace and peace of God our Father and  
the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.**

All: And also with you.

**Penitential  
Rite**

Presider: **Coming together as God's family, With  
confidence let us ask forgiveness as God is  
full of gentleness and compassion.**

**Christ Jesus coming in glory, your kingdom  
brings rejoicing, Lord have mercy.**

All: Lord have mercy.

Presider: **Christ Jesus coming in glory, your kingdom  
casts out fear, Christ have mercy.**

All: Christ have mercy.

Presider: **Christ Jesus coming in glory, your kingdom  
nourishes all. Lord have mercy.**

All: Lord have mercy.

Presider: **May almighty God have mercy on us,  
Forgive us our sins, and bring us to  
everlasting life.**

All: Amen.

## **Opening Prayer:**

Presider: **Almighty and everlasting God, as the nativity of Your Son according to the flesh draws near, grant our humble prayer, that we may know the mercy of the Word incarnate, Who took flesh of the Virgin Mary and came to dwell among us.**

**We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.**

All: Amen

## **II. LITURGY OF THE WORD**

(Lector goes up to the Presider and do *mano po* before proceeding to the ambo. **Presider says: "May God show you mercy"**)

**First Reading:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24

Lector: Thus says the Lord God: Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek, and the messenger of the covenant whom you desire. Yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who will endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire, or like the fuller's lye. He will sit refining and purifying silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, refining them like gold or like silver that they may offer due sacrifice to the Lord. Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem will please the Lord, as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with doom.

**Responsorial  
Psalm**

Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14

Lector/Response: Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

Lector: Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.

All: Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

Lector: Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, he teaches the humble his way.

All: Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

Lector: All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees. The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction.

All: Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

**Gospel  
Acclamation**

*(Sung by choir)*

**Gospel**

Lk 1:57-66

**When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John."**

**But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a**

**tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed.**

**Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be? For surely the hand of the Lord was with him."**

### **Homily**

### **General Intercessions:**

Presider : **My brothers and sisters: The coming of our Lord opens the floodgate of graces. Let us manifest to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, our need and that of our neighbors. Let our response be: Lord, show us your light.**

All: Lord, show us your light.

Lector: May the Church and all her children be witnesses of humility, justice, generosity and care; so that the memory and life of Christ on earth be made firmer and more steadfast, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, show us your light.

Lector: May all sectors of society answer the call to be faithful, caring and humane, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, show us your light.

Reader: May quarrels and discord among peoples and nations be peacefully resolved. May there no long be shedding of blood specially those of the children and all the innocent, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, show us your light.

Lector: May we fully contemplate the Sacred Scriptures. May it be a help to us to have the courage in taking on your work among the neglected ones. Let us pray to the Lord

All: Lord, show us your light.

Presider: **Our Loving God, our eagerness and anticipation for the coming of your Son cannot be hidden. But our world is not fully prepared to receive Jesus worthily. Hear our prayer that everyday we may reform with the rest of the world through the help of your Son and the Holy Spirit.**

All: Amen

### **III. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Offertory Song:** (Sung by Choir)

**Preparation of the altar and gifts:** *Preparation of the altar by two elderly couples, they precede the presenters of the gifts. (Presentation of gifts different families, collection will happen at this time)*

**Prayer over the Gifts**

Presider: **Lord God, let the sacrifice You have given as the full expression of the Church's worship establish us firmly in Your peace, that we may celebrate with untroubled hearts the coming birth of our Savior, Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

All: Amen.

**Preface of Advent II** ( please use the sacramentary)

**Eucharistic  
Prayer**

(please use the sacramentary)

**IV. COMMUNION RITE**

**Lord's Prayer:**

**Sign of Peace:** (Families will give the sign of peace to the Presider in the *Mano po* manner **Presider says to each one who greets him the Mano Po to him: "May God show you mercy"**)

**Breaking of the  
Bread:**

(Lamb of God to be sung by the Choir)

**Communion:**

**Announcements:**

**Prayer after  
communion**

Presider:

**Grant pardon and peace, O Lord, to those  
You have fed with heavenly gifts, so that, at  
the coming of Your beloved Son, we may  
hasten to greet Him with lamps alight in our  
hands.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

All:

Amen

## **V. CLOSING RITE**

### **Greeting**

Presider: **The Lord be with you.  
( Sumainyo ang Panginoon )**

All: And also with you

### **Blessing**

Presider: **May almighty God bless you,  
The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
( Pagpalain kayo ng Makapangyarihang  
Diyos Ama, at ng Anak, at ng Espiritu  
Santo )**

All: Amen

### **Dismissal**

Presider: **Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

All: Thanks be to God.

### **Recessional Song:**

(To be sung in Tagalog – Medley of Christmas Songs)