

Simbang Gabi Script for Dec. 23, 2003, Tuesday

Rituals for the day: 1. *Liturgical movement for entrance procession.*

2. *Preparation of the altar by two elderly couples to highlight the important role of the elderly - making a semblance of preparing a 'special dinner' for the community*

3. *Presentation of personal gifts of different families*

4. *Mano po of families to the priest for the kiss of peace*
*In the Filipino religious culture it is usual practice to ask for a priest's or an elder's prayer and blessing before performing any special task as a sign of respect for authority. This is normally done through Mano Po, which consists of taking the priest's or elder's hand to one's forehead, while the **priest or the elder says: "May God show you mercy"**. This morning assigned families will do mano po as 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

Dance is deeply imbedded in the Filipino culture, it is a way and means of expressing their patterns of thinking, feeling, speaking and "memorializing". Dance has also been a way of praying just as in the caracol, ati-atihan, sinulog, turumba and petitions of childless couples in Obando. Being in eager anticipation of the Lord's coming, dancing the entrance procession can truly be an enlivening experience in the beginning of our Liturgy this morning.

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.

I. INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Rite *(Liturgical Movement precedes the 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

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

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

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

All: 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: *Readers of the petitions should be assigned seats on the left hand side of the church for easy access of the ambo*

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.

Reader: 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.

Reader: 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.

Reader: 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) presentation of the bread and wine for Eucharist).

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: (To be sung in Tagalog by Choir)

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 in Tagalog)

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)

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