



05 January 2024

HOLY HOUR

(“Behold, I make all things new” - Rev 21: 5)

Hymn: No. 123. – Father we love you, we worship and adore you - (*Joyful Celebration Hymnal*)

(*Pause... for Moments of Silent and Personal Adoration before the Eucharistic Lord*)

Introduction:

In the sacred stillness of this moment before our Eucharistic Lord, we gather our hearts and spirits to express gratitude for the gift of life and the boundless opportunities that unfold before us. In a world that often clings to the familiar and resists the unknown, embracing the spirituality of ‘welcoming newness’ becomes a testament to faith. It is an acknowledgment that God's love is not confined by the limitations of our understanding or the constraints of our expectations. Instead, it is a love that unfolds in unpredictable ways, revealing itself in the beauty of change and the unexpected surprises that grace our lives. As we welcome every new thing that this year would bring along, we ask the Lord to cast away the shadows of fear and doubt, and help us bask in the radiant light of hope. We surrender to the divine flow of life, acknowledging that every moment is an invitation to evolve, to become more fully ourselves. May this hour of prayer be a light guiding us to unfold the chapters of our lives with grace, gratitude, and an unwavering trust in the beauty that newness brings. When we approach the unexpected with an open heart, we invite God's surprises to be catalysts for transformation and growth.

(*Pause..... for Moments of Silent and Personal Prayer*)

Hymn: No. 221 Verses 1, 2, 4 – Jesus my Lord, my God my all, (*Joyful Celebration hymnal*)

LEADER: Like St Francis of Assisi who praised God from the glory of daybreak to nightfall, through all weather, the elements of fire and water; let us also fill our lives with songs of God’s praise.

Response: Lord, we praise and glorify your name!

Lord, your love is ceaselessly creative and ever-renewing; we thank you for the novelty, variety, and freshness in our lives and for your presence at every transition. **R/-**

For the lessons of the past times, the joy of the present and for the hopes and dreams of tomorrows, **R/-**

For the support of families, the loyalty of friends, the guidance of mentors, inspiration from the wise, and the benevolence of God that seasons everything. **R/-**

For the parts of us that have matured and grown with time and those areas which still needs patience, compassion and careful tending and the confidence we have in your grace. **R/-**



For all the good and happy moments and also for our share of trials, sicknesses and failures that keep us from pride of self-sufficiency and hold on to you, our ultimate joy and peace. **R/-**

For your constancy; that even when everything changes for good or for worse, you always remain the same faithful, unconditional in love and true to your promises. **R/-**

Leader: The Holy Spirit acts as a spiritual teacher, helping believers grasp the deeper meaning, apply Biblical principles to our lives and grow in our faith fostering a close relationship with God and a deeper understanding of his Divine plan. Therefore we invoke the Holy Spirit before we listen to God's Word.

Hymn: No. 363 – Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me (*Joyful Celebration hymnal*)

Scripture Reading: 2Cor 5:17-20

Reflection:

St Paul paints for us a beautiful picture of the transformative power of Christ's redemption. Through Christ, we become a new creation – a profound, spiritual rebirth that marks the end of our old ways and the beginning of a life rooted in the love and grace of God. The past no longer defines us; instead, we find our identity in Christ, who offers us a fresh start. Furthermore, He emphasizes the ministry of reconciliation that God has entrusted to us. We are called to be ambassadors of Christ, representing the very heart of God's mission in the world. Just as God, through Christ, reconciled us to Himself, we are now given the task of carrying this message of reconciliation to others. As ambassadors of reconciliation, we are invited to extend the same grace and forgiveness that we have received to those around us. In a world marked by division, strife, and brokenness, our role as ambassadors is crucial. We are called to embody the love of Christ, not counting the sins of others against them but pointing them toward the reconciling embrace of our Heavenly Father. May our lives be a testament to the transformative power of God's love, and may we, with urgency and humility, implore those around us to be reconciled to God.

(Pause..... for Moments of Silent and Personal Reflection and Examination of Conscience)

Hymn: No. 58 – Beginning today my mornings are yours. (*Joyful Celebration hymnal*) Or 283

General Intercessions:

As we raise our voices in prayer, let the vibrations of our words resonate with the collective yearning for peace, justice, and unity in the world. May our intentions ripple outward, creating waves of positive change that touch the hearts of all beings.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the World: Lord, we pray for peace in our world, especially in places torn by conflict and strife. May your light shine in the darkest corners, bringing reconciliation and understanding among nations. **R/**



For the Church: Lord, strengthen our faith; deepen our love for you and for one another. Guide our leaders with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, that they may shepherd your flock with humility and grace. **R/**

For Our Communities: We pray for our local communities, that they may be places of compassion, generosity, and support. Bless those who work tirelessly to improve the lives of others, and inspire us all to be instruments of your love in our neighborhoods. **R/**

For Families: Heavenly Father, bless our families with love, understanding, and patience. Grant strength to parents and grandparents, and protection to children. Help us to prioritize our relationships and nurture the bonds that unite us. **R/**

For the Sick and Suffering: Lord, we lift up to you all those who are suffering, whether in body, mind, or spirit. Grant them strength in their afflictions and surround them with the healing power of your love. **R/**

For the Departed: We remember with love and gratitude those who have gone before us. May they find eternal rest in your presence, and may the memories of their lives inspire us to live with purpose and kindness. **R/**

Lord, as we embark on this New Year, we place our hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, into your loving hands. Walk with us, guide us, and fill our hearts with the light of your presence. May the coming year be one of growth, grace, and abundant blessing. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen
(Pause..... for Moments of Silent and Personal Prayer)

<p>THE DIVINE PRAISES: <i>(After the Benediction)</i> Blessed be God. Blessed be His Holy Name. Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man. Blessed be the name of Jesus. Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart. Blessed be His Most Precious Blood. Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.</p>	<p>Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy. Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception. Blessed be her glorious Assumption. Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother. Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse. Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.</p>
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CLOSING HYMN: Let Us Bow In Adoration.

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