

Pax Christi USA
Weekly Advent prayer service
December 2, 2024

WELCOME

Opening song

Lighting of candles on the Advent wreath

First reading – Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the book of Isaiah...

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel reading – Luke: 46-56

A reading from the gospel of Luke, First Nations Version.

When **Bitter Tears** (Mary) heard this, she was filled with gladness, and her words flowed out like a song.

“From deep in my heart I dance with joy to honor the Great Spirit. Even though I am small and weak, he noticed me. Now I will be looked up to by all. The Mighty One has lifted me up! His name is sacred. He is the Great and Holy One.”



Her face seemed to shine as she continued.

“He shows kindness and pity to both children and elders who respect him. His strong arm has brought low the ones who think they are better than others. He counts coup with arrogant warrior chiefs but puts a headdress of honor on the ones with humble hearts.”

She smiled, looked up to the sky, and shouted for joy!

“He prepares a great feast for the ones who are hungry, but sends the fat ones home with empty bellies. He has been kind to the tribes of **Wrestles with Creator** (Israel) who walk in his ways, for he has remembered the ancient promises he made to our ancestors-to **Father of Many Nations** (Abraham) and his descendants.”

When she finished, they both laughed with joy. With hearts full of gladness they told each other their stories.

The Gospel of our God.

Reflection – *Tonight’s reflection is an excerpt from Pope Francis meeting with indigenous peoples, July 25, 2022.*

I trust and pray that Christians and civil society in this land may grow in the ability to accept and respect the identity and the experience of the indigenous peoples. It is my hope that concrete ways can be found to make those peoples better known and esteemed, so that all may learn to walk together. For my part, I will continue to encourage the efforts of all Catholics to support the indigenous peoples. I have done so on other occasions and in various places, through meetings, appeals and also through the writing of an Apostolic Exhortation. I realize that all this will require time and patience. We are speaking of processes that must penetrate hearts.



Silent reflection

- Does the message of the Magnificat have any meaning or implications for healing our nation's relationship with the original peoples in the United States?
- What is our individual role?

Prayers of the faithful – Our response is, “God of hope, hear our prayer.”

- Please use the chat box on Zoom to share prayers that you want us to lift up over the coming week.

Closing prayer – From Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk

“Grandfather, Great Spirit, you have been always, and before you no one has been. There is no other one to pray to but you. You yourself, everything that you see, everything has been made by you. The star nation all over the universe you have finished. The four quarters of the earth you have finished. Grandfather, Great Spirit, lean close to the earth that you may hear the voice I send. You towards where the sun goes down, behold me; Thunder Beings, behold me! ... You where the sun shines continually, whence come the daybreak star and the day, behold me! You where the summer lives, behold me! You in the depths of the heavens, an eagle of power, behold! And you, Mother Earth, the only Mother, you who have shown mercy to your children! Hear me, four quarters of the world—a relative I am! Give me the strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is! Give me the eyes to see and the strength to understand that I may be like you. With your power only can I face the winds.” Amen.

Closing song

After the service, those who would like may stay on and meet in breakout rooms for about 15 minutes to discuss the reflection and today's Advent questions.



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