

Holodomor Liturgy of the Word

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Leader: Good morning. Several years ago our Board of Trustees unanimously declared the last Friday in November as Holodomor Memorial Day in the Edmonton Catholic School District. This week on the last Friday in November, many of our staff and students will be observing Holodomor Memorial day. Today, we dedicate our Liturgy of the Word to the millions who died in the Holodomor or the Ukrainian Famine Genocide of 1932-1933.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Leader: Lord, open our lips. **All:** And we shall proclaim your praise.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest. **All:** And peace to God`s people on earth.

HYMN OF PRAISE

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: As we honor the millions of Ukrainians who died as a result of Famine Genocide, and as we recall the dramatic events of the Holodomor, let us pray for the repose of the souls of the dead, asking God to grant eternal rest to all those who were unjustly deprived of the gift of life.

Help us to remember the victims, the country's children, and to pray that, with God's assistance, the lessons of history help us to find lasting encouragement for mutual understanding, harmony and peace.

Protected by our Mother of God, we celebrate today with splendor. Gazing at your most pure image, we humbly say:

All: Cover us with your precious veil and deliver us from all evil by asking your Son, Christ our God, that He may save our souls.

All: Hail Mary, full of grace. Our Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

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WORD OF GOD

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Gospel Reading: Luke 21: 5-11

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke,

Reader: When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

The gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: We pray for the intentions of our community. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, helping to lift the veil of mourning for all people, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For world leaders who follow Christ's example of humility, service and justice, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For those in our community who endure the cross of pain or loss, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For the repose of the victims' souls of Holodomor and for the healing of this painful wound in the conscience of our blessed nation, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For the sick and the suffering, and for those that have died, we pray to the Lord. **R**

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say: Our Father

CONCLUDING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: May the Word, of which we have shared, O Lord, show favor to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands; through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord almighty order our days and our deeds in lasting peace.

All: Now and forever.

Leader: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on us and remain with us forever.

All: Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.