

# EPICLESIS VIRTUAL CHAPTER HOUSE

**Prayer and Eucharist, Thursday, December 5, 2024**

*Celtic Daily Prayer Book 1, Finan Readings, December 5*

**Psalm 16 † Isaiah 58:6-12 † Revelation 21:1-7**

## **Daily Reading**

[Today's reading is extracted from *Poustinia: Encountering God in Silence, Solitude, and Prayer* by Catherine Doherty. "Poustinia" is a Russian word meaning "desert" but also referring to what we would call a "hermitage" – a place of solitude.]

True silence is a key to the immense and flaming heart of God. It is the beginning of a divine courtship that will end only in the immense, creative, fruitful, loving silence of final union with the Beloved.

Yes, such silence is holy, a prayer beyond all prayers, leading to the final prayer of constant presence of God, to the heights of contemplation, when the soul, finally at peace, lives by the will of Him whom she loves totally, utterly, and completely.

This silence, then, will break forth in a charity that overflows in the service of the neighbor without counting the cost. It will witness to Christ anywhere, always.

Availability will become delightful and easy, for in each person the soul will see the face of her Love.

Hospitality will be deep and real, for a silent heart is a loving heart, and a loving heart is a hospice to the world.

## **Meditation**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the First Sunday in Advent, *Book of Common Prayer (2019)*