

# The Eucharist

7 May 2023 ♦ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A



The three readings of today's Eucharist are taken from the same three books of the Bible as last Sunday's. Once again in this Easter Season, it is the risen Lord who is put before us, and in particular today, on whose relationship with the Father we are invited to reflect.



*'No one can come to the Father except through me.  
If you know me, you know my Father too.'*

## FIRST READING

(Acts 6:1-7)

In this reading we have the scriptural basis for a development in the life of the Christian Church which we have come to know as the diaconate. It has two forms at present. It is a calling which all priests are ordained to en route to priesthood. It is also a permanent state in life in many countries where men, whether single or married, live out a life of service to the Christian community.

## SECOND READING

(1 Peter 2:4-9)

In this reading the local church to which this letter is addressed is referred to as a holy priesthood and this serves to remind us that though most of us are not ordained, yet all of us, women and men alike, are priests who offer the sacrifice of praise to God for calling us out of darkness into light.

## GOSPEL

(John 14:1-12)

Today's Gospel is an extract from the Last Supper conversation of Jesus and his disciples. After an initial call not to lose heart the reading goes on to consider how God and Jesus are related. In this passage they are closely identified with each other. When Jesus is speaking, it is the Father who is addressing us. And in coming to know Jesus who was seen by many we come to know the Father who has never been seen.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 97:1-2)

**O sing a new song to the Lord,  
for he has worked wonders;  
in the sight of the nations  
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

### Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters),  
let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate  
the sacred mysteries.

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,**

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

**through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

### Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;**

**you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### Collect

Almighty ever-living God,  
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,  
that those you were pleased to make new in  
Holy Baptism  
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit  
and come to the joys of life eternal.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

(Acts 6:1-7)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 32:1-2.4-5.18-19)

**℟ May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.  
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **℟**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. **℟**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,

on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. **℟**

### SECOND READING

(1 Pt 2:4-9)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Jn 14:6)


**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.**

**No one can come to the Father except through me.'**  
**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

(Jn 14:1-12)

 The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**  
A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;  
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,  
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,  
I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have  
seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,  
so how can you say, "Let us see the father"?

Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Profession of Faith** *(Nicene Creed)*

**I believe in one God, / the Father almighty, / maker of heaven and earth, / of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, / the Only Begotten Son of God, / born of the Father before all ages. / God from God, Light from Light, / true God from true God, / begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; / through him all things were made. / For us men and for our salvation / he came down from heaven,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, / and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, / he suffered death and was buried, / and rose again on the third day / in accordance with the Scriptures. / He ascended into heaven / and is seated at the right hand of the Father. / He will come again in glory / to judge the living and the dead / and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, / who proceeds from the Father and the Son, / who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, / who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. / I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins / and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead / and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*The priest introduces the* Prayer of the Faithful.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth,

we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Eucharistic Prayer II**

*(Preface IV of Easter)*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For, with the old order destroyed, a universe cast down is renewed, and integrity of life is restored to us in Christ.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and ☩ Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice

and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray  
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church,  
spread throughout the world,  
and bring her to the fullness of charity,  
together with **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop  
and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters  
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,  
and all who have died in your mercy:  
welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray,  
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with the blessed Apostles,  
and all the Saints who have pleased you  
throughout the ages,  
we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,  
and may praise and glorify you  
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,

and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace  
and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated  
Host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*Showing the Host to the people, the priest says:*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Jn 15:15)*

**I am the true vine and you are the branches,  
says the Lord.**

**Whoever remains in me, and I in him,  
bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord,  
and lead those you have imbued with  
heavenly mysteries

to pass from former ways to newness of life.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Personal Prayer**

God our Father, your greatest message to humanity  
was revealed when you sent your Son, Jesus, to  
become human like us.

He is the link between us and you, between heaven  
and earth, between time and eternity.

In these days of Eastertide help us to see in his  
resurrection the goal to which you are calling all of us.

We make this our prayer through the same Jesus, the  
Christ and risen Lord. Amen.