

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Entrance Antiphon** (Cf. Is 66:10-11)

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.**

**Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

In the name of the Father, ... **Amen.**  
The grace of our Lord ... **And with your spirit.**

### Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters), ...

*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, ... **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*The Gloria is not said.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING** (2 Chron 36:14-16.19-23)

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will

keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up".'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 136:1-6)

**R O let my tongue cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion: on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. **R**
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' **R**
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **R**
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **R**

### SECOND READING

(Eph 2:4-10)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit.

*(contd on back page)*

We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he has meant us to live it.


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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (Jn 3:16)

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**  
**God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;**  
**everyone who believes in him has eternal life.**  
**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

**GOSPEL** (Jn 3:14-21)

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 Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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), ...  
**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.**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

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.**

**Sanctus**

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

**After the Consecration**

The mystery of faith.

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

## THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command ...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, ...**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...

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

Lord Jesus Christ, ...

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins ...**

Behold the Lamb of God, ...

**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** (Cf. Ps 121:3-4)

**Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.**