

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon *(Cf. Mt 3:16-17)*

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

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 ... 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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *(Is 40:1-5.9-11)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

'Console my people, console them', says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the

Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 103:1-4.24-25.27-30)

R Bless the Lord, my soul
Lord God, how great you are!

1. Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **R**
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. **R**
3. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. **R**
4. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. **R**
5. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **R**

SECOND READING *(Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world,

(contd on back page)

while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Cf. Lk 3:16)


Alleluia, alleluia!

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Lk 3:15-16.21-22)

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

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.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

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

(Jn 1:32.34)

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.