

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

or

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

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer:
Amen.

The Communion Rite

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...

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

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.

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

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and
do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will
save us.

Prayer after Communion

We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us
of our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts...
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.

At the end of Mass the people respond:
Thanks be to God.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say,
rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

*All make the Sign of the Cross as the priest
says:*

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

People Amen.

*The priest greets the people in one of
these ways:*

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.

or

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
And with your spirit.

or

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

*One of the following acts of penance is
now made:*

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,

(all strike their breast and 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.

or

Have mercy on us, O Lord.
For we have sinned against you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant us your salvation.

or

Lord, have mercy. *or* Kyrie, eleison.
Lord, have mercy. **Kyrie, eleison.**

Christ, have mercy. *or* Christe, eleison.
Christ, have mercy. **Christe, eleison.**

Lord, have mercy. *or* Kyrie, eleison.
Lord, have mercy. **Kyrie, eleison.**

After the absolution all respond:
Amen.

The Collect

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's
Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing...
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the
poor,

to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,

freedom to those in prison;

to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

"I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of
salvation,

he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

“For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and
praise

spring up in the sight of the nations.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Luke 1:46-50. 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her
nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

R.

2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **R.**

3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R.**

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to
the Thessalonians.

*May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and
body, for the coming of the Lord.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and
for all things give thanks to God, because
this is what God expects you to do in Christ
Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat
the gift of prophecy with contempt; think
before you do anything – hold on to what is
good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect
and holy; and may you all be kept safe and
blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has
called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

**He has sent me to bring good news to
the poor.**

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel John 1:6-8. 19-28

*There stands among you, unknown to you,
the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness.
When the Jews sent priests and Levites
from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”
he not only declared, but he declared quite
openly, “I am not the Christ.” “Well then,”
they asked “are you Elijah?” “I am not” he
said. “Are you the Prophet?” He answered,
“No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We
must take back an answer to those who sent
us. What have you to say about yourself?”
So John said, “I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.”

Now these men had been sent by the
Pharisees, and they put this further question
to him, “Why are you baptising if you are
not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the
prophet?” John replied, “I baptise with water;
but there stands among you – unknown to
you – the one who is coming after me; and
I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.” This
happened at Bethany, on the far side of the
Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Homily

The Profession of Faith

**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,
(all bow during the next three lines)
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 bidding prayers now follow:

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*If the prayers of blessing are said aloud the
people acclaim each time:*

Blessed be God for ever.

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.**

Prayer over the Offerings

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we
pray,
be offered to you unceasingly,
to complete what was begun in sacred
mystery
and powerfully accomplish for us your
saving work.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The 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.

The priest gives praise to God and all 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.**

*After the Consecration we acclaim the
mystery of faith:*

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

or