



NAAS, SALLINS &
TWO MILE HOUSE
PARISHES



Detail from *The Ascension* 1926 by Harry Clarke - Church of the Immaculate Conception, Roundfort

Pastoral Pack for Sunday of the Ascension
Sunday 24th - Saturday 30th May 2020

A Word from Fr. Sean

The Moat

A little tribute to the Moat Ward, Naas Hospital.



When I was a boy, there was a field near home with a Norman moat that overlooked a small bog. Legends said there was buried treasure there, chalices hidden by the monks at the suppression of the monasteries but that a black dog would chase away anyone who tried to dig them up. It was a fine outpost from which to look out over the small valley, a place for dreams and hopes, for picnics and children's games, where friendships were forged as boyish war-games took shape, where hide-and-seek could last for hours, where birds nested and young trees grew. To this day, it is a little oasis of memory, of peace and of quiet.

I sometimes think of the Normans who lived there almost a thousand years ago. In some ways, their experience was the same. This was to be a place of security and refuge, where they could pull up the drawbridge if any enemy came, where they could look out from a perch of comfort across the small, hidden valley, where homes were made and dreams were forged. This was a place where a new community became an old community and where the words and work of a living fellowship left their mark on the very landscape for those to whom that fellowship would be the stuff of history.

What mark will we leave on the landscape to make memory of our moment in history? In a thousand years, where will be our moat, the place where our dreams were forged and our words were spoken? Where will our chalices be buried?

One day, on a call to the Covid patients in Moat, I took a moment of fright at the bottom of the stairwell. It was all too frighteningly real—the threat of infection, the PPE, the patients who would die without family present. I thought of climbing the moat at home—a little adventure on a summer Sunday, one step at a time along the foxpath through the furze-bushes. Maybe we would find the buried treasure and return home with silver chalices.....

And maybe I did. Climbing the stairs to the Moat ward was so similar to the childhood charges up the moat. Those who worked there fast became more than associates, as their kindness and steely courage made me proud to be even slightly associated with them: the caterers with their *rebelliously* good food, almost as if this virus needed to be told that it was not invited to the feast; the Moldovan cleaners with few words of English but with a smile that communicated a communion without speech; the nurses and doctors, from Ireland, India, Australia, South Africa, the Phillipines and so many other places, countering the terrorism of this virus with care, fellowship and good will; the patients whose last words I was privileged to hear and for whom I stood in the place of a son or daughter to give the final words of

peace and reassurance and to hear their last heaves of thankful breath. Maybe I did return home with a silver chalice, brimming over with the sacrament of their presence in the world, which really was the grace of Christ made manifest.

Yes, when the black dog of Covid tried to chase us away, we kept searching for that buried treasure, that silver chalice of hope and healing, of peace and light. If I helped to bring peace where healing could not reach, I am thankful, hugely thankful and hopeful that it made a difference! This is our moat and like the thousand-year old monument, it will mark the landscape of memory as people for times to come will know that in this place, a community of care took on the greatest threat of more than 70 years with resilience, courage and some gorgeous carrot cake (Thanks, Triona!)



Little Nellie of Holy God

Little Nellie of Holy God -The Life of Nellie Organ (1903-1908)



“There! That is the sign for which I was waiting.”
-Pope St Pius X after hearing about the holy life of little Nellie. A few months later in 1910 he issued “*Quam Singulari*” which significantly lowered the age of Holy Communion for children.

Little Nellie Organ lived to be only four and one-half years old, and yet for very good reason she is known as “The Little Violet of the Blessed Sacrament.” The remarkable story of her short yet holy life begins with her birth on August 24, 1903. Her father, William Organ and her mother Mary Aherne Organ were married on July 4, 1896 and their marriage was soon blessed with four children: Thomas, David, Mary and, lastly, Nellie. Because unemployment was very high at that

time in Ireland, her father William Organ had to choose between emigration and enlistment as a soldier. He chose the latter and in October, 1897, he joined the British Army then in occupation in Ireland, in a garrison in the maritime town of Waterford.

Thus little Nellie was born on August 24, 1903, in the "married quarters" of the Royal Infantry Barracks in Waterford, Ireland. Soon afterward she was brought to the parish Church of the Trinity where she was Baptized with the name of "Ellen," though she would be familiarly called "Nellie."

"When only two," Nellie's father writes, "she would clasp my hand and toddle off to Mass, prattling all the way about Holy God. That was the way she always spoke of God, and I do not know where she could have learned it." Nellie loved her father dearly, and her first request when her mother went out was to buy a rosary for Daddy. One night her father said he was going on sentinel duty. Nellie said, "I will be sentinel in your place."

"You go to sleep," said her father.

"No," said Nellie, "I shall wait for you"-and when he returned some hours later she was awake, waiting for him.

The holy names were the first words that Nellie learned, and at night the family Rosary was said. Her mother taught her to kiss the crucifix and the large beads, a habit which Nellie retained.

The death of her mother

In 1905 the family moved to Spike, an island fort situated in Cork Harbour. The mother's health, which had never been robust, now visibly deteriorated.

Pious and devout, Mrs. Organ turned in her last months entirely to God, and her rosary was never out of her hands. Toward the end she clung to Nellie with such transports of affection that the child had to be torn, almost rudely, from her dying embrace. She died of consumption (tuberculosis) in January, 1907.

The eldest of the Organ children was only nine at the time and her father was engaged throughout the day in his military duties, so initially a charitable neighbour gave occasional help in the Organ household. However since the children were so young and couldn't help much with all the necessary household duties, it was soon realized that this makeshift arrangement was a poor one, and in addition it was discovered that Nellie was painfully delicate and was requiring special care, for it was soon discovered that she had a crooked spine, though this was not recognized completely until she came into the care of the Good Shepherd Sisters. Sitting upright in a chair was painful for her and in fact holding her body still for any length of time pained her a great deal. Her hip and her twisted back were out of joint. She cried, but there was no loving mother to soothe and comfort her. Nellie's father at length realized that he could not carry on any longer in a motherless family, so he asked a kind priest friend to find a home in some convent for his forlorn orphans.

Nellie and her sister are sent to the Good Shepherd Sisters

The priest friend came to his assistance, and with his kind help each of the little ones was provided with a home in the charitable institutions of the diocese. Thomas was sent to the School of the Brothers of Charity at Upton; David, the younger brother, to the convent school of the Sisters of Mercy, Passage West; and it was arranged that Mary and Nellie should be

sent to live at St. Finbarr's Industrial School conducted by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd at Sunday's Well, in the city of Cork, Ireland.

Nellie and her sister arrived on May 11th, 1907. It was with truly maternal care that Mary and Nellie were surrounded there by the kind Good Shepherd Sister and Nellie was truly happy there, and she called all the Sisters "Mothers." Upon her arrival Nellie was three years and nine months old; she would live the remaining eight months of her life with the Sisters.

A Physicians Diagnosis

Mary Long was a young girl who slept next to Nellie and she told the Sisters that Nellie seemed to be in pain and would often be up much of the night crying and often coughing. Because of this, little Nellie was transferred to the school infirmary where she would share her meals with a little black kitten, of which she grew very fond and which fully reciprocated the child's affection.

While classroom lessons had now ceased for the suffering child, she was however taken at times join the kindergarten games on the playground. One day she was given a box of beads string. She put some in her mouth and inadvertently she somehow swallowed, or rather half swallowed them. They stuck in her throat and she seemed to be suffocating. The teacher snatched her up and went running to find the nurse and together they rushed Nellie into the Sacred Heart Infirmary on the convent ground, and immediately those present performed the operation of extracting the beads from her throat. Five were removed from the neighbourhood of the trachea. Remarkably, Nellie did not cry during the painful experience, but sometime later she became listless, so they sent for the doctor. With grief in their hearts they soon heard his diagnosis: Along with her crooked spine Nellie was the victim of the dreaded tuberculosis--the disease that had proved fatal to her mother. Since the disease was already quite along in its progress, the doctor held out no hope whatsoever of her recovery. In fact he informed them that she had only a few months of life remaining.

Her devotion to the Child Jesus

Little Nellie remained for two months in the Sacred Heart Infirmary. Her nurse, Miss Hall frequently considered it necessary to stay the night with her, and Nellie's gratitude for this attention was full of childlike love---"Holy God took my Mudder," she would say, "but He has given me you to be my Mudder." She would put out her tiny hand between the rails of her crib to take that of her "Mudder," and she would clasp it affectionately until the little fingers gradually relaxed and she fell into a fitful sleep.

During this time when Nellie was still confined to bed in the infirmary, a little altar on which stood a statue of the Holy Infant of Prague attracted her attention. She asked Miss Hall about the statue and she explained to Nellie that the statue was an image of Our Lord when He was a child. Immediately Nellie's interest was aroused. Miss Hall proceeded to narrate the story of the birth of Christ and His great love for us. The child listened with evident enthusiasm, and ever afterward she delighted in "the story of Holy God when He was a little child."

Her remarkable recovery

And from that moment she turned with all the sweet simplicity of childhood and spoke to little Jesus, and at the suggestion of the nuns she soon made a novena to Him, asking Him to make her well. When the novena was ended, she unexpectedly became so far recovered as to be able to walk about in the garden holding someone's hand. Naturally, this inspired in her a great confidence in the Holy Child, with whom she now began to chat familiarly and of whom she made the most extraordinary demands.

When, shortly afterwards her former nurse, Miss Hall became unwell, Nellie called one of the older girls and said to her, "Go and bring me Holy God (referring to the statue of the Infant Jesus), and put Him on the chair near me. I want to ask Him to make Mudder better. He made me better, you know."

The dancing Child Jesus

Among Nellie's toys was a tin whistle which she often enjoyed playing with. One day toward the end of September, Mary Long was busy in the kitchen and was engaged in copying some verses which the children were to recite on the occasion of a visit from the Mother Provincial, who visited each day. For awhile Nellie was there playing quietly with her toys, but then she came over to Mary and said "Longie, give me my baby," for that is how she always spoke of the little statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague. Mary paid no heed at first, but Nellie went on: "Longie, give me my baby," until Mary, to have peace, said:

"I will give it to you, Nellie, but please do not break it or Mother Francis will be angry."

'Mary went into the other room, got the statue, and gave it to Nellie. Nellie, now perfectly happy and content, hugged the little image, hushing it in her arms and kissing it, with many lisping words and murmurs of affection. Then she put it on the floor beside the pots and pans. Mary went on with her copying, but let us now continue in Mary Long's own words:

All of a sudden Nellie got very excited and called out: 'Longie, Him dance for me! Longie, play music,' and she snatches hold of her whistle and keeps on blowing, only stopping to cry, 'Him dance for me! Longie, play more music!' I thought the child had gone mad. Then Josephine, the girl who helped with the cleaning, came in. Josephine at once said, 'What is the matter with Nellie?'

Nellie, her face flushed, her eyes sparkling, cried out just flinging one glance toward us, then instantly back again to the statue- 'Jo! play music! Him dance for me; now me dance for Him,' and Nellie begins stepping about, her arms extended. After a few more moments she stopped suddenly, and sadly in a disappointed little voice she said "He stopped now". And thus she became quiet once again.'

"God's flowers"

As the months passed, Nellie soon became ill once again. Often the good Sisters brought flowers to Nellie to brighten her up during her dreary days of illness. "Isn't Holy God good,"

she would say, "to have made such lovely flowers for me?" Because of this fact she disliked artificial flowers. "They are too 'tiff (stiff)," she used to say; "bring me some of Holy God's own flowers."

One day Mary Long, on reaching the door of the infirmary, was surprised to find Nellie scrambling back into bed, in her hand a flower which she had evidently taken from a vase that stood on a table nearby. Perceiving Mary, Nellie slipped the flower under the bed clothes, believing her action to be unobserved. But Mary had seen it and began questioning the child: "Who stole that lovely daisy from the vase?"

"No one, Longie."

"Then where is it? Perhaps it is under the bed?" -and Mary pretended to be searching about for it. With a shriek of laughter, Nellie suddenly produced it from its hiding place, smiling all the while.

"Oh, you naughty child," said the girl, pretending to be angry, "I'll tell Mother when she comes back that you stole the flower."

Nellie did not answer for a moment but hugged the flower to her breast, then quietly remarked that the altar was hers (and thus in her little mind the flower was hers also). Later, when she was alone with Mary, Nellie said to her: "Mudder, I'm sorry I took the flower; but I was only talking to Holy God, and Him gave me the flower...Him did, Mudder."

Once Nellie noticed some dead flowers by the Sacred Heart statue outside the infirmary. She spoke up: "Look at them dirty flowers, them should be taken away." Long afterwards, when she was so weak that she could not leave her bed, she asked Reverend Mother whether "them dirty flowers" had been taken away from the statue of Holy God.

First Holy Communion

Nellie's devotion to the "Hidden Jesus" in the Eucharist

With her various household tasks, Mary Long did not always feel able to rise for the community Mass each morning. On one such occasion, Mary began doing her morning work quietly in the kitchen until she heard the children pass into their refectory after Mass. Then she opened the door to Nellie's room and said, "Well, Nellie, how are you today?"

To her surprise, Nellie answered reproachfully, "You did not get Holy God this morning."

Mary thought that perhaps Nellie had heard her moving about in the kitchen, and so an idea occurred to her to test Nellie next time. She went to the door of the building, opened the latch, and closed the door again, thus giving the impression, as she thought, that she had really gone to Mass. She then removed her boots, and during Mass time she moved about as little as possible in the kitchen. When she returned to Nellie's room, she looked quite unconcerned. The child, however, fixed her pensive eyes on Mary's countenance, and then the same reproving words were spoken sadly:

"You did not get Holy God today."

"How do you know, lovey?" said Mary. "Didn't you hear me close the door?"

"No matter," said the child, "I know you didn't get Holy God."

Nurse Hall gave the following account of Nellie's extraordinary behaviour on the occasion of her first visit to the chapel during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

On that morning, Nurse Hall carried Nellie down to the chapel. Nellie had never before actually seen the Sacred Host exposed in the monstrance. What then was Miss Hall's surprise to hear the little one say to her in an awed whisper: "Mudder, there He is, there is Holy God! And with her little hand she pointed to the monstrance, after which she never once took her eyes off the Host, while an expression of ecstasy transfigured her face.

In another account of this same first visit, Reverend Mother writes: "It was the First Friday of the month (October), I was passing along the corridor, when the chapel door opened and Nellie, holding the Nurse's hand, toddled out softly and recollectedly. Remembering how ill the child had been, I stooped down, one knee on the floor, and said: 'Well, how is Baby today?' For answer the little one laid her face on my shoulder and wept silently; but her tears were not sad, they were all sweetness; it was a holy emotion, the happiness of which overflowed in wordless weeping. In that moment," continues the Mother solemnly, "it was made known to me interiorly that God had some special designs on the child, and that I, then Superior, was expected to co-operate with Him in accomplishing them."

From that day onward, by some interior warning, without a single exterior sign to guide her, Nellie always knew when there was Exposition at the convent.

Nellie had been born in the army barracks, where the prison was called the "lock-up." So concerning the Eucharist in the Tabernacle she regarded Jesus as the "Prisoner" in the "lockup".

Thus on Exposition days she would say: "Take me down to the chapel. I know that Holy God is not in the lockup today." Oftentimes she would call the Eucharist "the hidden Jesus".

Nellie's painful diseased jaw

There came a time when Nellie's appetite, always small, seemed to fail completely. She would hold her little bowl of broth or milk, turning and turning the spoon about in it, but refusing to eat. When pressed to swallow some, she tried to comply, but swallowing evidently hurt her; and she would shake her head and say her "t'roat" was sore.

The doctor was called to examine Nellie's throat but could find nothing wrong. Nellie heard his opinion calmly, did not cry over it and neither over her pain, but continued to assert nevertheless that her "t'roat" was sore. Finally the little mouth was explored thoroughly, and a new tooth was discovered that had just cut its way through at the root of the tongue - entirely in the wrong place, of course. It was soon discovered that poor Nellie had a diseased

jaw; and the tooth, cutting through at such a point, must have caused her very serious pain. Yet surprisingly she did not cry while it was being removed.

Mother Francis Xavier had instructed Nellie concerning the significance of the crucifix. Here is Mary Long's reminiscence: "The prioress, Mother Francis Xavier Hickey, used to come over to see Nellie every evening. Then Mother would kneel by Nellie, take out her crucifix, and explain Our Lord's life "

All this time, tuberculosis was wasting away the baby frame. Not only were Nellie's lungs affected, but her jawbone had begun to crumble away from the disease known as "caries." In the end it came away in pieces, and the odour from it was extremely unpleasant and at times unbearable. The devoted nurse syringed it frequently with disinfectants. This, although it hurt considerably, was nevertheless not once resisted by the child. When the nurse took out her syringe, Nellie took out her crucifix. Giving her intelligent consent to this pain, which clearly God had laid upon her, she thought of the Great Atonement. When the pain was greatest she used to lie motionless in bed, her arms crossed on her breast, her little fingers folded around her crucifix.

A vision of Jesus

As we can see, little Nellie's devotion to whom she called "Holy God" was extraordinary and heroic, while at the same time being very simple and childlike, given that she was only 4 years old.

One morning, Sister Immaculata and Nurse Hall went together to visit the little patient, who had spent a very restless night, owing to her many sufferings. It was then that the following extraordinary conversation took place:

"How are you today, darling?" asked nurse Hall.

"I thought that you would have been with Holy God by this time."

"Oh, no!" answered Nellie, "Holy God says I am not good enough to go to him yet."

"What do you know about Holy God?" asked the nurse.

"Him did come and stand there," replied the child, pointing to the side of her bed, "and Him did say that."

Nurse and the Sister looked at each other in amazement.

"Where was He, Nellie?" asked the Sister.

"Dere," she repeated confidently, pointing to the same spot.

"And what was He like?" asked the Sister again.

"Like that," answered Nellie, putting her hand on her breast in a tucked position.

Sister Immaculata and Nurse Hall were naturally astounded at this revelation. Was it a childish fancy or had God really favoured this little child as He had favoured other chosen souls? After some discussion, they both agreed that it would be more prudent not to mention the matter to anyone, unless Nellie herself should speak of it again. And one day little Nellie, when on the threshold of eternity, solemnly repeated the story of this visit of "Holy God".

And for a child of four years, Nellie was making incredible strides in faith and holiness. She had learned by heart the morning and evening prayers, the acts of faith, hope and charity, the principal mysteries of religion, and much of the story of the life of Jesus. She had a remarkable devotion to the Passion of Our Divine Lord, and when they exhorted her to unite her sufferings with those of Jesus, she seemed to grasp the idea immediately and was quite prepared to make the heroic sacrifice and to endure the most atrocious suffering without a murmur of complaint. She kept a crucifix beside her on her bed, and when her sufferings became almost unbearable, she would take it in her little hand, stare at it fixedly, and whisper, "Poor Holy God! Oh, poor Holy God!" If others sympathized with her, she would smile and remark, "What is it compared with what He suffered on the Cross for me?"

She prayed often during the day, and her recollection during prayer was very edifying. She prayed for all who were dear to her- the Sisters, the Bishop, the Nurses, her little companions, the welfare of the Church of Christ and the Pope.

Nellie's recital of the Rosary was particularly edifying. She kissed each of the large beads and the crucifix and recited each prayer slowly, distinctly, and with a spirit of recollection most remarkable in one so young.

"One evening," writes Reverend Mother, "while I was sitting beside her bed, I said to her: 'Shall I talk to you, Baby, or shall we say the Rosary?'"

"Say the Rosary, Mudder," she answered. I had only said a few Hail Marys when I heard her whisper, 'Kneel down, Mudder.' I paid no attention and continued to the end of the first decade, when she repeated in quite a determined tone, 'Kneel down, Mudder,' and I had to finish the Rosary on my knees."

Her incredible desire to receive Jesus in Holy Communion

Not long after Nellie was completely bedridden, she expressed a strong desire to be carried down for Mass to adore Jesus in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and what's more she soon expressed sighs of longing for the then unheard-of privilege in childhood of receiving Holy Communion. During this time, the normal age for first Holy Communion was at least age 12. Often now she was heard repeating to herself: "Oh, I am longing for Holy God! I wonder when He will come! I am longing to have Him in my heart."

All the while, Reverend Mother continued visiting Nellie every evening. On one occasion, when about to bid the child "Good night," she was startled by the following request. "Mudder," asked Nellie, "tomorrow morning, when you get Holy God, will you bring Him up to me?" Mother knew not what to answer. She considered for a moment and then replied,

"Tomorrow morning I shall ask Holy God to be very fond of you, and I shall come up to see you after Mass." This reply seemed to satisfy the child. Later in the evening she called Nurse Hall and said to her, "Mudder Francis is going to bring Holy God to me in the morning".

What was her disappointment after Mass when Mother Francis came to see her, but without actually bringing her Holy Communion! In fact when she saw Mother Francis enter without "Holy God," her disappointment was so keen that she wept bitterly.

During the rest of that day Nellie scarcely spoke a word and for some days after that sorrowful experience, Nellie lay sad, not caring to talk or play. Sometimes she would sigh wistfully, and when they asked if she needed anything, she would answer:

"No, I am just thinking about Holy God."

Soon, however, the clever little brain had evolved a plan which might solace -though it could not satisfy her longing for Holy Communion.

"Mudder," she whispered to the nurse one morning, "when you get Holy God in the chapel, will you come back and kiss me? Then you can go back to the chapel again."

This kiss was not for the nurse, it was for the Blessed Sacrament. It was given indiscriminately to anyone, nun or child or grown-up, whom Nellie could coax to come to her immediately after their receiving Holy Communion. In profound reverence the baby lips would touch the lips of the communicant, then in strictest silence she would wave her tiny hand as a signal to the other to return and finish her thanksgiving. Sometimes her nurse would hesitate to leave Nellie to attend Mass, but Nellie would always insist. "Mudder, go down to Mass," she would say, "and get Holy God and come back to kiss me. Then you can go back to the chapel again."

The whole month of November 1907 passed thus in holy desire, in suffering patiently borne, and in loving thoughts of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Her First Holy Communion

As December came, the Sisters had begun a ten-day retreat which was to end on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Fr. Bury, S.J., was the director. Naturally, the Sisters mentioned to him the longing for Holy Communion of the "extraordinary child" upstairs. Nellie was only 4 years old, and at this time children generally were not admitted to Holy Communion until ten or twelve years of age.

Father Bury, far from dismissing the Sisters' account, gave his sympathetic attention. "St. Alphonsus," he said, "gave Holy Communion to a tiny child who longed for it. If the Bishop permitted me, I would do the same by Little Nellie."

So that day Fr. Bury went up and had a talk with Nellie. "What is the Blessed Eucharist?" he asked. Nellie's reply was all her own: there was not a touch of coaching or catechism about it. "It is Holy God," she lisped; "it is Him that makes the nuns and everybody else holy." On another occasion she would say, "Jesus comes on my tongue and goes down into my heart." The words were indeed the words of an infant, but the doctrine was profound.

Impressed by the reasoning of Nellie, Father Bury wrote a letter to the Bishop requesting special permission to give her Holy Communion. According to Father Bury, "With regard to the reception of this Sacrament, Nellie had arrived at the use of reason." He told the Bishop that Nellie was endowed in no ordinary degree with ardent love of God and the desire to be united to Him in Holy Communion.

The answer came while Father Bury was dining in the convent parlour. No sooner had he read the permission than he started up from his unfinished meal, flung his napkin halfway across the table and rushed upstairs two steps at a time to take the joyful news to the anxious little one.

When Nellie heard the glad tidings, her joy was indescribable. "I will have Holy God in my heart!!! I will have Holy God in my heart!" she kept repeating with indescribable joy!

The night before her First Communion day brought Nellie little rest; she could not sleep for joy. She kept Nurse awake all night long, asking if it were not yet time to rise. "The stars are gone, Mudder!" she would cry, "' is it time to get up now?"

The eventful morning dawned at last, the morning of December 6, 1907. After such a sleepless night it was feared the excitement would be too much for the delicate child and that she would be unable to receive the Blessed Sacrament. But Nellie tried to calm herself; she lay quietly in her bed, and though her limbs trembled slightly, the illness passed.



It was the First Friday. Dressed all in white, she was carried down and placed in a little easy chair before the Sanctuary. The community Mass had just ended. Nellie remained silent and motionless with her head bowed down in prayer and adoration. Every eye was on this baby of predilection; all her companions looked on in wonder. A baby to receive Holy Communion!

Then came Father Bury in stole and surplice. Soon she saw the priest approaching, she lifted her eager face. "The child," wrote Father Bury, "literally hungered for her God, and received Him from my hands in a transport of love."

So all of Nellie's yearnings were satisfied. Holy God had come into her heart at last.

A priest wrote in October, 1911, describing Nellie's thanksgiving after her First Communion. "The happy moment will long be remembered by those who had the privilege of being present. Nellie seemed in an ecstasy, and all remarked the heavenly light that lighted up the child's countenance."

And then a strange thing was noticed: the disagreeable (some called it "the unbearable") odour that previously had exhaled from her diseased mouth and jaw was never experienced again after that First Communion morning. But amidst such indescribable joy, Nellie's tuberculosis progressed, and her health continued to grow worse

Pope St. Pius X lowers the age of first Communion after hearing about Nellie

Soon after her holy death when Pope St Pius X heard of the extraordinary life of Nellie and her remarkable desire for Holy Communion, he exclaimed aloud "There! That is the sign for which I was waiting." and a few months later in 1910 he issued "*Quam Singulari*" which significantly lowered the age of Holy Communion for children from the age of 12 to around age 7. And the Pope also asked the local Bishop of Cork, his excellency T.A. O'Callagan, O.P. for a relic of Nellie and on June 4, 1912 Pope St. Pius X wrote to the Bishop:

"May God enrich with every blessing Father Prevost and all who recommend frequent Communion to young boys and girls, proposing Nellie as their model"

-Pope Pius X

June 4, 1912

On the threshold of heaven

The New Year 1908 dawned, but it brought no earthly hope to those who loved little Nellie. It was a wonder to all how she continued to exist: the tiny frame was quite exhausted. She could now retain nothing, not even a spoonful of broth. She seemed to live on the Blessed Sacrament alone. Her sufferings were so great that one day they drew tears from a Sister who witnessed them. But Nellie was quite resigned. "Why are you crying, Mudder?" she asked. "You should be glad that I am going to Holy God." If her nurse complained of a headache or other pain, Nellie would say, "What is that compared to what Holy God suffered for us."

On another occasion one of the nuns went to Nellie and begged her to pray for a sister of hers, a lady in the world, who was very ill.

"Has she children, Mudder?" asked this astounding infant.

"She has many children," replied the Good Shepherd Sister, quite gravely.

"Then," said Nellie confidently, "I will pray to Holy God, and He will see that she'll be cured." And, in fact, the lady recovered.

Nellie loved holy cards and medals, and would have them placed all about her room and her sick bed. One day Mother Superior showed Nellie a new holy card of Jesus. She responded "that is not the way that I see Him".

"How do you see Him?" asked Mother.

"This way," answered Nellie, holding her hands on her breast in the same manner as on the occasion when she had spoken of her vision to Sister Immaculata and Nurse Hall. Mother was astonished; she had not heard of this "visit of Holy God" before. She spoke to the Sister and the Nurse, and they gave thanks to God. Their lips were opened now, and they disclosed their treasured secret.

Nellie's silent communings with God became daily longer and more frequent. She often asked others to leave her room, as she wished to speak to Holy God. Sometimes they asked her if she were not lonely or afraid during their absence, but the answer was always the same: "Oh, no! I was talking to Holy God." If they questioned her further, she would answer: "Holy God says I must not speak of these things."

Nellie had been asked to pray for the recovery of a well-known Jesuit Father who was unable to come to Cork because of a serious illness. "Holy God is very fond of Father" she said a few days later. "He will get better, but he will never see me." Her words proved true.

During the month of January the little patient lingered on, enduring her sufferings with heroic fortitude. Fr. Scannell says that "days of torture glided into weeks of agony, until sympathetic hearts would pray that God might take her."

Her holy death

Nellie said that she would go to Holy God on His own day (Sunday); that she would wear her First Communion dress, that she would go in Nurse's arms, and that they should make a new dress for Nurse.

Her strength was failing day by day; the end was close at hand. On Thursday, the 30th of January, Mother Francis came to see her. Knowing that the child's life was nearly spent, she spoke of what was dearest to her heart. "Nellie," she said, "when you go to Holy God, will you ask Him to take me to Him? I am longing for Heaven." The child looked searchingly at Mother, and her wonderful eyes seemed to glow with some preternatural light. Then she answered solemnly: "Holy God can't take you, Mudder, till you are better and do what He wants you to do."

(Mother Francis lived to be 99 years old. She died in 1960 at the Good Shepherd Home in St. Paul, Minnesota.)

Rosary tickets for the month of February (1908) were distributed by lot among the children, and Nellie in her turn drew hers. It proved to be that of the Feast of the Purification, February 2, which was to fall on the upcoming Sunday. Would that be the day? On Friday Nellie was so weak that it was thought she had already passed away, but again she rallied slightly. She passed an agonizing night. On Saturday the little sufferer hung between life and death.

All day on February 2, poor little Nellie's agony was heartrending to behold. Several Sisters came in turn to kneel in prayer around the little bed; three remained, becoming witnesses of Nellie's saintly death.

Toward three o'clock Nellie became quite calm, and she remained motionless for about an hour. Her eyes were fixed on something which she seemed to see at the foot of her bed. "There was an extraordinary look in those lovely eyes," a Sister related; "it was not the sightless, glazed expression of the dying." Then Nellie moved. Her eyes now filled with tears—with tears of joy, it seemed. She tried to rise and draw near to that "something" on which

she was gazing so longingly, and then she smiled. From the movement of her lips it seemed she was speaking with someone, and raising her eyes, she followed with a look of supernatural love that "something," which seemed now to hover above her head. Presently, with an ecstatic smile, little Nellie "flew" to Holy God. It was four o'clock on Sunday, February 2, 1908, the Feast of the Purification of Mary and of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Candlemas Day). Nellie was then four years, five months and eight days old.



Nellie's body is exhumed and found incorrupt

Nellie's body was laid out on the bed which had been her cross, clothed in her First Communion dress and wearing the wreath and veil and her dainty little shoes. Around the bed were placed the pictures, medals and other objects of piety which she had loved so much in life; all these became precious relics.

In the morning, the little coffin was carried to the chapel and laid in the children's choir. Then, after the Requiem Mass, the Sisters and the pupils came to bid a last farewell. They touched the little hand with rosaries and medals and reverently kissed the body that had housed a soul so dear to God. She was buried in the evening in St. Joseph's cemetery. The mourners were few: Nellie's sister Mary, who was still a pupil at St. Finbarr's School; Nurse Hall; Sister Teresa and some of the pupils.

However as time went on the story of the remarkable life of that holy child spread among the public, the little grave in St. Joseph's Cemetery gradually became a shrine. The graces obtained through her intercession were by degrees divulged, and the resting place of this little child became celebrated throughout the country.

It was now sought to have the remains transferred to the Convent Cemetery at Sunday's Well. Exactly a year and a week after little Nellie's death, the grave was opened to see if such transference could with safety be accomplished.

The Reverend Dr. Scannell will now tell us what took place at the exhumation:

"There were present a priest (this was Fr. Scannell himself), the Nurse, and two other reliable witnesses. To the great astonishment of all, for it must be borne in mind that the child had died of phthisis (a wasting or consumption of the tissue; usually, pulmonary tuberculosis) the body was found intact, except for a small cavity in the right jaw which corresponded to the bone that had been destroyed by caries whilst the little one was still alive. The fingers were quite flexible and the hair had grown a little. The dress, the wreath and veil of First Communion, with which she had been buried as she desired, were still intact. The silver medal of the saintly child of Mary was bright as if it had been recently polished; everything, in fact, was found to be exactly as on the day of Nellie's death."

The permission of the authorities, civil and ecclesiastical, having been obtained, the body was transferred from the public cemetery to that of the Good Shepherd Convent, where it was piously laid on the 8th of September, 1909.

Father Scannell finishes his report "The new grave is visited by groups of pious persons who ask that little Nellie may plead for them before the throne of the All-powerful God. The blind, the deaf, the lame, those in suffering or in sorrow, seek health and comfort at this peaceful holy shrine."

And those seeking the intercession of "Little Nellie" have not sought her help in vain as countless miracles have been wrought through her heavenly intercession in the 100 years since her death, and good number of these testimonies have been kept by the Good Shepherd Sisters as a living witness to her care and concern for those who pray for her help.

Little Nellie of Holy God, pray for us!

Primary source for this article is firstly the excellent book entitled "The Life of Little Nellie of Holy God" Tan Books, 2007, available through Tan Publishing. Additional source is the book entitled "Little Nellie of Holy God" by Sister Mary Dominic, R.G.S., Tan Books, 2006, available through Tan Publishing.

Papal Catechesis on Prayer

Given at the General Audience with Pope Francis – 20th May 2020



'Prayer illumines you: it illumines your soul, it illumines your heart and it illumines your face, even in the darkest times, even in times of great sorrow'

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

We continue with the catechesis on prayer, meditating on the mystery of Creation. Life, the simple fact that we exist, opens man's heart to prayer.

The first page of the Bible is like a great hymn of thanksgiving. The account of Creation is punctuated by refrains, where the goodness and beauty of everything that exists is continually confirmed. God calls to life with His word, and everything accesses existence. With the word, He separates light from darkness, alternates day and night, the cycle of seasons, opens a palette of colours with the variety of plants and animals. In this overflowing forest that quickly wards off the chaos, man finally appears. And this appearance sparks an excess of exultation that magnifies the satisfaction and joy: "And God saw everything that He

had made, and behold, it was very good" (*Genesis 1:31*). A good thing, but also beautiful: the beauty of the whole of Creation is seen!

The beauty and mystery of Creation generates in man's heart the first movement that arouses prayer (Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2566). So says the eighth Psalm that we heard at the beginning: "When I look at Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast established; what is man that Thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that Thou dost care for him?" (vv. 3-4). The praying person contemplates the mystery of existence around him, he sees the starry sky that hangs over him — and that astrophysics shows us today in all its immensity — and he wonders what design of love there must be behind such a powerful work! . . . And, what is man in this unbounded vastness?" "Almost a nothing," says another Psalm (Cf. 89:48): a being that is born, a being that dies, a very fragile creature. And yet, in the whole universe, the human being is the only creature aware of such a profusion of beauty. A small being that is born, dies, is today and tomorrow is not, is the only one aware of this beauty. We are aware of this beauty!

Man's prayer is closely linked with the sentiment of wonder. Man's greatness is infinitesimal if compared to the universe's dimensions. His greatest conquests seem but very little . . . But man isn't nothing. In prayer a sentiment of mercy is affirmed overpoweringly. Nothing exists by chance: the secret of the universe lies in Someone's benevolent gaze, which crosses our eyes. The Psalm affirms that we are made little less than God, crowned with glory and honour (Cf. 8:5). Man's greatness is his relationship with God: his enthronement. By nature, we are almost nothing, small but by vocation, by calling we are children of the great King!

It's an experience that many of us have had. If the story of life, with all its bitterness, sometimes risks suffocating in us the gift of prayer, suffice it to contemplate a starry sky, a sunset, a flower . . . to rekindle the spark of thanksgiving. This experience is perhaps at the base of the Bible's first page.

When the biblical account of Creation is drawn up, the people of Israel are not going through happy days. An enemy power had occupied the land; many were deported, and now found themselves slaves in Mesopotamia. There was no longer a homeland, a Temple, or social and religious life — nothing. Yet, precisely from the great account of Creation, some begin to find reasons for thanksgiving, to praise God for their existence. Prayer is the first strength of hope. You pray and hope grows, it goes forward. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. Hope exists, but with my prayer I open the door <to it>. Because men of prayer protect the basic truths; they are those that repeat, first of all to themselves and then to all others, that this life, despite all its toils and trials, despite its difficult days, is full of a grace to marvel at, and, as such, is always defended and protected.

Men and women that pray know that hope is stronger than discouragement. They believe that love is more powerful than death and that one day it will certainly triumph, even if in times and ways that we don't know. Men and women of prayer bear reflections on their face of flashes of light: because even in the darkest days, the sun doesn't cease to illuminate them.

Prayer illumines you: it illumines your soul, it illumines your heart and it illumines your face, even in the darkest times, even in times of great sorrow.

We are all bearers of joy. Have you thought of this? That you are a bearer of Joy? Or do you prefer to bring bad news, things that sadden. We are all capable of bringing joy. This life is the gift that God has given us, and it is too short to consume it in sadness, in bitterness. We praise God, happy simply to exist. We look at the universe, we look at the beauties and we also look at our crosses and we say: "But You exist; You have made us so, for Yourself."

It is necessary to feel that restlessness of heart that leads to thanking and praising God. We are the children of the great King, of the Creator, able to read His signature in all of Creation, that Creation that we do not protect today; however, in that Creation is God's signature, who made it out of love. May the Lord make us understand this ever more profoundly and lead us to say "thank you," and that "thank you" is a beautiful prayer.



A Nine Day Novena in Preparation for The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

The Feast of the Holy Trinity is celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost but you can pray the Holy Trinity Novena for any reason that you want, so go ahead and start praying! The Holy Trinity is a great mystery of the Church. The Church teaches that there is only one God but our one God is made of three Persons. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit all make up our one God. God the Father has no origin, He didn't come from anyone. But the Son comes from the Father and the Holy Spirit comes from both the Father and the Son. The Father has the particular power of creation, the Son brought us knowledge about the Father, and the Holy Spirit brings us goodness and holiness. The doctrine of the Trinity is a foundation of Christianity. When God became man, Jesus gave us the opportunity to experience the Trinity. We praise the Holy Trinity every time we pray by beginning and ending our prayers with the Sign of the Cross.

God Eternal Father, bless me through the love with which You have begotten Your only Son from all eternity and shared with Him the fullness of Your Divinity. Bless me through the love which has adopted us as children, and made us partakers of the treasures of Your Divinity. Bless me through the love which sent us Your Son and the Holy Spirit to work the miracles of Your power and mercy in us. Grant that I may always revere and honour You as my great

God, and love You with my whole heart as the best of fathers. Eternal Father, grant my petition:

(Mention your request)

God Eternal Son, image of the splendour of the Father, bless me through the love with which You surround us, Your poor creatures. You have become our Brother according to the flesh to make us Your brothers according to Your Divinity, and an image of Your splendour. Bless me through the marvellous goodness of Your Sacred Heart which chose death to bring us life. Bless me through the love with which You plead for us before the throne of God, in the Blessed Sacrament, and with which You give Yourself to us in Holy Communion. Grant that all this love and bitter pain may not be lost on me. Eternal Son, grant my petition:

(Mention your request)

God Holy Spirit, mutual Love of the Father and the Son, bless me through the love with which You proceed from the Father and the Son and unite Them in eternal unity. Bless me through the love with which You give Yourself to us as our greatest Gift, dispensing Your Divine graces to us and transforming sinners into children of God. Bless me through the love with which You dwell in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, through Whose merits the earth is filled with grace, and made a dwelling place for the God of heaven. Grant that I, Your faithful servant, may always allow You to lead me so I may advance in virtue and reach eternal happiness. Eternal Holy Spirit, grant my petition:

(Mention your request)

Most Holy Trinity, Godhead indivisible, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our first beginning and our last end, You have made us after Your own image and likeness. Grant that all the thoughts of my mind, all the words of my mouth, all the affections of my heart, and all my actions be always conformed to Your holy Will. After having seen You here below in Your manifestations and by faith, may I come at last to see You face to face in the perfect possession of You forever in heaven. *Amen.*



Prayer:

Almighty and Everlasting God, by the profession of the true faith, You have given us, Your servants, grace to acknowledge the glory of the Eternal Trinity, and in the power of Your Divine Majesty to worship the Unity. We beg You to grant that, by our fidelity in this same faith, we may always be defended from all dangers. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Pray 3 Our Fathers.....

Did you Set up a May Altar at Home?

At the start of May we gave you some pointers on how and why we should maintain the tradition of building a May altar in your home. This week we are asking you to take a photograph of your efforts that are always so pleasing to the Blessed Virgin and send them to us at naasparish@gmail.com. We will, with your permission, publish all photos received on our parish website and in next week's parish pastoral pack. We have received some beautiful pictures already and we know that Our Lady smiles down on each and every one of these acts of devotion and love towards her. We would love to see your home may Altar, so why not take a photo of it and send it into us at naasparish@gmail.com.



Your May Altars



Children's Pages



Saint of the Week:

Pope Saint Paul VI

May 29th

A child friendly video on the life of Pope St. Paul VI for our younger parishioners. You can view it at this address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EnRwzTKJjU>

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF POPE ST. PAUL VI

As a child, Giovanni Battista Montini was often ill. He could not do many of the things that other children his age could do, but he loved to study and read. After he finished high school, he studied for the priesthood and was ordained in 1920. Father Montini went on to hold a variety of important positions in the Church. In 1953, he was named archbishop of Milan. There he fought for the rights of workers and worked to improve relationships among all the Christian traditions. In 1958, he was named a cardinal of the Catholic Church.

When Pope John XXIII died in 1963, Archbishop Montini was elected pope. He took the name Pope Paul VI. Pope Paul VI promised to continue the work begun by Pope John XXIII. He saw to it that the decisions of Vatican II were carried out. He travelled to five continents, making him the first pope in 150 years to leave Italy.

Pope Paul VI also continued to work to improve relationships with other Christian traditions. In 1964, he travelled to the Holy Land and met with Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople, in an effort to mend relations with the Eastern

Orthodox Church. Later that year, he travelled to India, and in 1965 he travelled to the United States and addressed the United Nations.

In 1968, Pope Paul VI wrote an encyclical titled *Humanae Vitae* (Of Human Life). In this document, Pope Paul VI instructed Catholics on the importance of welcoming children into their families and on respecting human life.

Pope Paul VI died on August 6, 1978. On October 14, 2018, Pope Francis named him a saint of the Church.

Prayer

God of all people, give us courage to stand up for what is right and to work for justice for all, as Pope Paul VI said. May we learn to reach out and share what we have with others. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us that we may be peacemakers in our world today. Amen.

Quiz of the Week - Catholic General Knowledge

1. What is the name of our current Bishop?
2. What is the name of our current Pope?
3. What are the two "Great Commandments" that contain the whole law of God? (Hint: See Mark 12: 28-31)
4. What word do we use when speaking of the change that occurs when the priest changes the bread and wine into the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer?
5. What is meant by the term "the seal of the confessional"?
6. Name the 3 conditions necessary for one to receive the Holy Eucharist worthily.
7. What or who is the "immaculate conception"?
8. What must Catholics do on the Holy Days of Obligation?
9. From what part of the Bible does the First reading at Mass normally come from?
10. What prayer is said to start the Rosary?

11. What is the triple office of Jesus?

12. What are the four marks of the church?

Crossword Puzzle of the Week

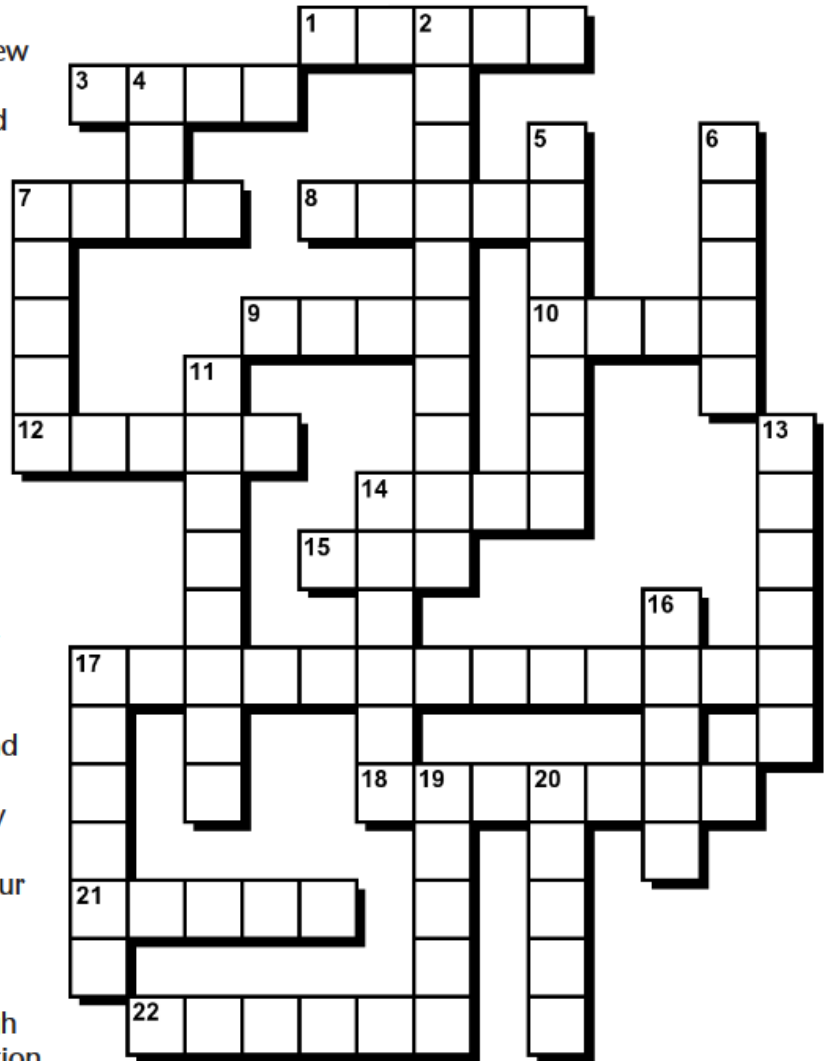
This week we are testing your knowledge on the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation! If you manage to successfully finish it, take a photo and send it into us here at naasparish@gmail.com.

ACROSS

1. Color used at Baptism to symbolize new life in Christ
3. Receptacle in which a child is baptized
7. Baptism consecrates us, that is, make us ____
8. Symbol of Baptism
9. Abbreviation for the ritual adults go through when they are baptized, confirmed, and receive Eucharist all in the same liturgy
10. After being welcomed by the celebrant, the parents announce the baby's ____
12. Age typically considered the "age of reason"
14. Through Baptism, we become part of the ____ of Christ
15. The waters of Baptism wash this away
17. Preparation for adults that leads up to Baptism
18. A candle is lit from the ____ candle and given to parents at Baptism
21. Confirmation ____ the Gift of the Holy Spirit in us
22. To be confirmed, you must profess your faith and ask to receive the Sacrament of ____

DOWN

2. Christian ____ is accomplished through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
4. In Confirmation, this symbolizes the power of the Holy Spirit
5. When we are baptized, we call upon the name of the ____
6. Jesus was baptized in one of these
7. The laying on of these is a gesture that asks the Holy Spirit to come upon a person
11. Baptism and Confirmation both leave permanent, spiritual signs on us and cannot be ____
13. "Be ____ with the Gift of the Holy Spirit"
14. The ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Baptism
16. At Baptism and at Confirmation we publicly reject him.
17. Oil used for anointing in Baptism and Confirmation
19. Place in a church in which the Sacred Chrism is kept
20. The celebrant makes the sign of this on the baby's forehead



Prayer of the Week



Oh, what an amazing blessing
it must have been
for the disciples and Mary Magdalene
to walk with Jesus once again.

Rejoice in his Resurrection.
But, oh, what sadness must have followed
when Jesus' work on earth was done.
Despite the glory of his Ascension into heaven,
was Mary again to lose her son?

With open hearts, full of faith,
they were nurtured by his promise.
The words of Jesus about the Holy Spirit
kept them strong and brought them calmness.

Naas Parish Media

Our parish now has several platforms on which you can keep up with all parish and many town events along with the daily parish liturgies.



Morning Prayer, Daily Mass, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer along with all other parish liturgies can be viewed live on our parish webcam stream:

<https://www.naasparish.ie/our-parish/naas-webcam/>



Parish News and items of Catholic interest are frequently added to our parish Twitter stream:

<https://twitter.com/naasparish> or simply [@naasparish](https://twitter.com/naasparish)



Our parish Facebook site offers a wider view of the activities of many of parish based and other Naas based groups:

<https://www.facebook.com/naasparish/>



If you wish to revisit any of the Easter or regular Sunday Parish Masses that were live streamed, you can view them on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ-MEFmcFzOsvSPm137Rjpw>



The following section of this pastoral pack contains Morning Prayer, Mass Readings, Evening Prayer, Night Prayer and a Lectio Divina exercise for each day of the coming week.

It is hoped that it will bring you into a deeper participation of our daily prayer life here at Naas Parish during the time that we are separated out of care for one another.

Our daily prayers are offered for all our parishioners and their loved ones. We think of those who are sick and those who are caring for them. We pray for those worried anxious or afraid at this time that the peace of the Risen Lord will be theirs in abundance.

In our hearts and minds also are all those who are working on the front lines of care and defence to keep us safe and protected. We pray the Lord's care and protection over them all.

Table of Contents

[Sunday 26 April 2020](#)

[Monday 27 April 2020](#)

[Tuesday 28 April 2020](#)

[Wednesday 29 April 2020](#)

[Thursday 30 April 2020](#)

[Friday 1 May 2020](#)

[Saturday 2 May 2020](#)

[Sunday 3 May 2020](#)

[Get the next e-book](#)

[Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 26 April 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 26 April 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

Lectio Divina

Introduction

Make whatever preparations you need to leave the shadow world behind and encounter the fire of the Spirit and the light of God.

If you have chosen a specific bodily position, adopt it. If you have chosen to prepare the space and the place in some way (perhaps drawing a curtain or lighting a candle), make that preparation.

Eliminate distractions and the possibility of interruption.

Sign of the Cross

We invoke God, in whose name we act and to whom we are about to open ourselves.

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

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

We invoke the Holy Spirit, who will speak to us and listen in us.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Act of Contrition

By acknowledging our sinfulness and admitting that by ourselves we can do nothing that is not flawed, we ask God to take the initiative in this encounter.

Have mercy on us, O Lord:
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy:
And grant us your salvation.

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

Amen.

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The Gospel should be read slowly, meditatively, with pauses between sentences or whenever the sense requires it. The aim is not to tell the text to God, who knows it already, but to let God tell it to us. For this, there have to be silences so that what God is telling us can be heard.

When a group is doing Lectio Divina, it is usually best to take turns in reading the words of the Gospel, since for many people speaking will bring the words to mind better than hearing does. But do not let this become a distraction in itself: have a clear order known in advance, and a simple signal for handing over the baton from one person to the next.

Luke 24:13-35

They recognised him at the breaking of bread

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, ‘What matters are you discussing as you walk along?’ They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, ‘You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.’ ‘What things?’ he asked. ‘All about Jesus of Nazareth’ they answered ‘who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and

how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Response

Meditatio (reflection)

What does the Gospel say to me?

God has willed me to be here, now, today, for a reason. Now is the time to reflect, and find that reason, and hear what God has chosen to tell me.

A good pattern is this:

- *What has drawn my attention or struck me in some way?*
- *Why? Was it a person? A word? A situation? A gesture?*
- *What, therefore, is God saying to me through these words, here and now, today?*

The “I” and the “me” are important. To say “we” or “us” is to evade the encounter by softening the focus and hiding behind membership of a group. The meeting with Jesus is face to face, one to one.

The shared echo

When several people are doing Lectio together, especially if they do so regularly, then there is the opportunity for each person to share the words that have had the most impact in today’s passage, or the message it has conveyed.

There is no obligation to share an echo, and some members may take many meetings before sharing one, or may even never do so.

An echo is what struck me – not “you” or “us”. It is not a mini-sermon or a carefully crafted uplifting thought. Echoes do not have echoes. The sharing of echoes and the listening to echoes are not a discussion aiming at a conclusion, but the opening of one heart to another.

The experience of sharing echoes brings the group closer together. Over time, its power grows.

Oratio (prayer)

God has spoken to me. What do I reply?

Silently, each of us responds to what God has said to him through the passage we have read and even through the echoes we have heard.

As a matter of human practicality, one person should be responsible for deciding the time taken for silent prayer. Even better, a timer or hourglass can be used. Otherwise “Are we nearly there yet?” can be a potent distraction.

Contemplatio (contemplation)

Sometimes we may be led beyond prayer into a quiet and attentive resting in the presence of God.

Conclusion

We prepare to return to the everyday world, carrying with us what we have received in our minds and our hearts today.

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.

May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 26 April 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 66 (67)

“Let it be known to you that this salvation from God has been sent to all peoples” (Acts 28:28).

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its fruit
for God, our God, has blessed us.
May God still give us his blessing

till the ends of the earth revere him.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 26 April 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky,

Heav'n thunders forth its victor cry:

The glad earth shouts her triumph high,

And groaning hell makes wild reply.

While he, the King of sovereign might,

Treads down death's strength in death's despite,

And trampling hell by victor's right,

Brings forth his sleeping saints to light.

Fast barred beneath the stone of late,

In watch and ward where soldiers wait,

Now shining in triumphant state,

He rises victor from death's gate.

Hell's pains are loosed and tears are fled:
Captivity is captive led:
The angel, crowned with light, hath said:
'The Lord is risen from the dead.'

Author of all, be thou our guide
In this our joy of Eastertide;
Whene'er assaults of death impend,
Thy people strengthen and defend.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,
All glory, Lord, thy people give:
All glory, as is ever meet,
To Father and to Paraclete.

Psalm 92 (93)
The magnificence of the Creator

“The Lord, our God, the Almighty is king: let us be glad and rejoice
and give him praise” (Rev 19:6,7).

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed. Alleluia.

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
he has girded himself with power.

The world you made firm, not to be moved;
your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are.

The waters have lifted up, O Lord,
the waters have lifted up their voice,
the waters have lifted up their thunder.

Greater than the roar of mighty waters

more glorious than the surgings of the sea,
the Lord is glorious on high.

Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
Holiness is fitting to your house,
O Lord, until the end of time.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

All power and all authority in heaven and on earth have been given to you, Lord Jesus; you rule with decrees that are firm and trustworthy. Be with us always so that we may make disciples whose holiness will be worthy of your house.

Or:

Lord Jesus, king of glory, when you rose from death in the power of the Spirit, you firmly established your kingdom not to be shaken or destroyed by death. May your will be done on earth as in heaven until the Church is made holy by your embrace.

Canticle

Daniel 3:57-88,56

All creatures, bless the Lord

“Praise our God, all you his servants” (Rev 19:5).

The whole creation will be freed and will enjoy the glory and freedom of the children of God. Alleluia.

O all you works of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, angels of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, the heavens of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, clouds of the sky, O bless the Lord.
And you, all armies of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, sun and moon, O bless the Lord.
And you, the stars of the heavens, O bless the Lord.
And you, showers and rain, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, all you breezes and winds, O bless the Lord.
And you, fire and heat, O bless the Lord.
And you, cold and heat, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, showers and dew, O bless the Lord.
And you, frosts and cold, O bless the Lord.
And you, frost and snow, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, night-time and day, O bless the Lord.
And you, darkness and light, O bless the Lord.
And you, lightning and clouds, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

O let the earth bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, mountains and hills, O bless the Lord.
And you, all plants of the earth, O bless the Lord.
And you, fountains and springs, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, rivers and seas, O bless the Lord.

And you, creatures of the sea, O bless the Lord.
And you, every bird in the sky, O bless the Lord.
And you, wild beasts and tame, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, children of men, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

O Israel, bless the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, priests of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, servants of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, spirits and souls of the just, O bless the Lord.
And you, holy and humble of heart, O bless the Lord.
Ananias, Azarias, Mizael, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

Let us praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit:
To you be highest glory and praise for ever.
May you be blessed, O Lord, in the heavens:
To you be highest glory and praise for ever.

The whole creation will be freed and will enjoy the glory and freedom of the children of God. Alleluia.

Psalm 148
An anthem to the Lord, the Creator

“To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever” (Rev 5:13).

The name of the Lord is praised, in heaven and on earth. Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord.
He commanded: they were made.
He fixed them for ever,
gave a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
sea creatures and all oceans,
fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds that obey his word;

all mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on the wing;

all earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes and rulers,
young men and maidens,
old men together with children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord
for he alone is exalted.
The splendour of his name
reaches beyond heaven and earth.

He exalts the strength of his people.
He is the praise of all his saints,
of the sons of Israel,
of the people to whom he comes close.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.
Amen.

The name of the Lord is praised, in heaven and on earth. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord, extolled in the heights by angelic powers, you are also praised by all earth's creatures, each in its own way. With all the splendour of heavenly worship, you still delight in such tokens of love as earth can offer. May heaven and earth together acclaim you as King; may the praise that is sung in heaven resound in the heart of every creature on earth.

Or:

God most high, by your Word you created a wondrous universe, and through your Spirit you breathed into it the breath of life. Accept creation's hymn of praise from our lips; may it raise your people above both heaven and earth.

Short Reading

Acts 10:40-43

God raised Jesus to life on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.

Short Responsory

Have mercy on us, Christ, Son of the living God, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Have mercy on us, Christ, Son of the living God, alleluia, alleluia.*
You have risen from the dead.
– *Have mercy on us, Christ, Son of the living God, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *Have mercy on us, Christ, Son of the living God, alleluia, alleluia.*

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

It was necessary that Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

It was necessary that Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to Christ, the author of life. God raised him from the dead, and he himself will raise us to life by his own power.
– *Christ, our life, save us.*

Christ, you are the light that drives out darkness and draws men to holiness; let us make this day a living hymn of praise.
– *Christ, our life, save us.*

Lord, you followed the way of suffering, even to the cross; grant that we may die with you and come to life with you.
– *Christ, our life, save us.*

Our master and our brother, you have made us a kingdom of priests to serve God our Father; let us offer you with joy the sacrifice of praise.
– *Christ, our life, save us.*

King of glory, we look forward to the day of your coming, then we shall see your face and share in your splendour.
– *Christ, our life, save us.*

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.

Lord God,
grant your people constant joy
in the renewed vigour of their souls.
They rejoice because you have restored them
to the glory of your adopted children:
let them look forward gladly
in the certain hope of resurrection.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 26 April 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

The Lamb's high banquet we await,
In snow-white robes of royal state;
And now, the Red Sea's channel past,
To Christ our Prince we sing at last.

Upon the altar of the Cross
His body hath redeemed our loss;
And tasting of his scarlet blood,
Our life is hid with him in God.

Now Christ our paschal Lamb is slain,
The Lamb of God that knows no stain,
The true oblation offered here,
Our own unleavened bread sincere.

O thou, from whom hell's monarch flies,
O great, O very Sacrifice,
Thy captive people are set free,
And endless life restored in thee.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,
All glory, Lord, thy people give:
All glory, as is ever meet,
To Father and to Paraclete.

Psalm 109 (110)
The Messiah, king and priest

“He must be king so that he may put all his enemies under his feet” (1 Cor 15:25).

When he had made purification for sin, he sat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Alleluia.

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
‘Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet.’

The Lord will wield from Sion
your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.
‘You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old.’

The Master standing at your right hand
will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*When he had made purification for sin, he sat at the right hand of the
Majesty on high. Alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Father, we ask you to give us victory and peace. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and King, we are already seated at your right hand. We look forward to praise you in the fellowship of all your saints in our heavenly homeland.

Or:

Almighty God, bring the kingdom of Christ, your anointed one, to its fullness. May the perfect offering of your Son, eternal priest of the new Jerusalem, be offered in every place to your name and make all nations a holy people for you.

Psalm 110 (111) Great are the works of the Lord

**“How great and wonderful are all your works, Lord God Almighty”
(Rev 15:3).**

The Lord has delivered his people. Alleluia.

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord,
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.
He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth,
his precepts are all of them sure,
standing firm for ever and ever;
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant for ever.
Holy his name, to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last for ever!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord has delivered his people. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Merciful and gentle Lord, you are the crowning glory of all the saints. Give us, your children, the gift of obedience which is the beginning of wisdom, so that we may do what you command and be filled with your mercy.

Or:

Merciful God, splendour of the Church and crown of all saints, give us that firm faith which begets wisdom and nourish us with heavenly bread in the holy assembly. May we renew the memory of your wondrous deeds in the one sacrifice worthy of you, until we enjoy the fullness of your covenant in an eternity of happiness.

Canticle

(Apocalypse 19)

The wedding of the Lamb

Alleluia. The Lord our God is king: let us rejoice and give glory to him.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
his judgements are true and just.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

Praise our God, all you his servants,
you who fear him, small and great.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns,
let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

The marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.

Alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Alleluia. The Lord our God is king: let us rejoice and give glory to him.
Alleluia.*

Short Reading

Hebrews 10:12-14

Christ has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place forever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying.

Short Responsory

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The Lord has truly risen, alleluia, alleluia.*

He has appeared to Simon.

– *The Lord has truly risen, alleluia, alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *The Lord has truly risen, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

*While he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing;
then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened
and they recognised him. Alleluia. (Year A)*

*Or: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.'
Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of
fish. Alleluia.*

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

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

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*While he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing;
then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened
and they recognised him. Alleluia. (Year A)*

*Or: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.'
Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of
fish. Alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray with joy to Christ the Lord. He rose from the dead and is living
now to intercede for us.

– *Victorious king, hear us.*

Christ, you are the light of the world and the salvation of nations;

set us on fire with your Spirit as we proclaim the wonder of your resurrection.

– *Victorious king, hear us.*

Let Israel recognize in you the Messiah it has longed for;
fill all men with the knowledge of your glory.

– *Victorious king, hear us.*

Keep us united in the communion of saints;
may we find rest with them, when life's work is done.

– *Victorious king, hear us.*

You have overcome death, the last enemy of man;
destroy everything in us that is at enmity with God.

– *Victorious king, hear us.*

Christ, our Saviour, you became obedient to death, but God raised you to the heights;

receive our brothers into the kingdom of your glory.

– *Victorious king, hear us.*

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.

Lord God,
grant your people constant joy
in the renewed vigour of their souls.

They rejoice because you have restored them
to the glory of your adopted children:

let them look forward gladly
in the certain hope of resurrection.

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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 26 April 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

Compline (Night Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Examination of Conscience

This is an excellent moment for an examination of conscience. In a communal celebration of Compline, one of the penitential acts given in the Missal may be recited.

Hymn

Jesu, the world's redeeming Lord,
The Father's co-eternal Word,
Of light invisible true Light,
Thine Israel's Keeper day and night.

Our great Creator and our Guide,
Who times and seasons dost divide,
Refresh at night with quiet rest,
Our limbs by daily toil oppressed.

We pray thee, while we dwell below,
Preserve us from our ghostly foe;
Nor let his wiles victorious be
O'er them that are redeemed by thee.

That while in this frail house of clay
A little longer here we stay,
Our flesh in thee may sweetly sleep,
Our souls with thee their vigils keep.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be,
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 90 (91)
The protection of the Most High

“Behold, I have given you power to tread under foot both serpents and scorpions” (Lk 10:19).

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: ‘My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!’

It is he who will free you from the snare
of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;
he will conceal you with his pinions
and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand fall at your right,
you, it will never approach;
his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look
to see how the wicked are repaid,
you who have said: 'Lord, my refuge!'
and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you,'
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of life I will content him;
I shall let him see my saving power.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, when tempted by the devil, you remained loyal to your Father whose angels watched over you at his command. Guard your Church and keep us safe from the plague of sin so that we may remain loyal to the day we enjoy your salvation and your glory.

Short Reading

Apocalypse 22:4-5

They will see the Lord face to face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. It will never be night again and they will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will be shining on them. They will reign for ever and ever.

Short Responsory

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.

At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may
keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.*

Let us pray.

God our Father,
as we have celebrated today the mystery of the Lord's resurrection,
grant our humble prayer:
free us from all harm
that we may sleep in peace
and rise in joy to sing your praise.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!
has risen as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!

Regína cæli, lætare, allelúia,
quia quem meruísti portáre, allelúia,
resurréxit sicut dixit, allelúia;
ora pro nobis Deum, allelúia.

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 26 April 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 65: 1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Collect

May your people exult for ever, O God,
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption,
we may look forward in confident hope
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.
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.

First reading

Acts 2:14,22-33

God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to this

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: ‘Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among

you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.
So my heart was glad
and my tongue cried out with joy;
my body, too, will rest in the hope
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.
You have made known the way of life to me,
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

‘Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God’s right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.’

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 15(16):1-2,5,7-11

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

or

Alleluia!

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord: ‘You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;

it is you yourself who are my prize.’

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

or

Alleluia!

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
 who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
 since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

or

Alleluia!

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
 even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
 nor let your beloved know decay.

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

or

Alleluia!

You will show me the path of life,
 the fullness of joy in your presence,
 at your right hand happiness for ever.

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

or

Alleluia!

Second reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

Your ransom was paid in the precious blood of Christ

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors

handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Lk24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

They recognised him at the breaking of bread

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, ‘What matters are you discussing as you walk along?’ They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, ‘You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.’ ‘What things?’ he asked. ‘All about Jesus of Nazareth’ they answered ‘who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he

was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.’

Then he said to them, ‘You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?’ Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. ‘It is nearly evening’ they said ‘and the day is almost over.’ So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?’

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, ‘Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’ Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
these offerings of your exultant Church,
and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness,
grant also that the gifts we bring
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Lk 24: 35

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord,
and grant, we pray,
that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries
may attain in their flesh
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

[Today](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Asicus, Bishop](#)

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Saint Asicus, Bishop

see also [Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
or Saint Asicus, Bishop

Lectio Divina

Introduction

Make whatever preparations you need to leave the shadow world behind and encounter the fire of the Spirit and the light of God.

If you have chosen a specific bodily position, adopt it. If you have chosen to prepare the space and the place in some way (perhaps drawing a curtain or lighting a candle), make that preparation.

Eliminate distractions and the possibility of interruption.

Sign of the Cross

We invoke God, in whose name we act and to whom we are about to open ourselves.

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

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

We invoke the Holy Spirit, who will speak to us and listen in us.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Act of Contrition

By acknowledging our sinfulness and admitting that by ourselves we can do nothing that is not flawed, we ask God to take the initiative in this encounter.

Have mercy on us, O Lord:
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy:
And grant us your salvation.

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

Amen.

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The Gospel should be read slowly, meditatively, with pauses between sentences or whenever the sense requires it. The aim is not to tell the text to God, who knows it already, but to let God tell it to us. For this, there have to be silences so that what God is telling us can be heard.

When a group is doing Lectio Divina, it is usually best to take turns in reading the words of the Gospel, since for many people speaking will bring the words to mind better than hearing does. But do not let this become a distraction in itself: have a clear order known in advance, and a simple signal for handing over the baton from one person to the next.

John 6:22-29

Do not work for food that cannot last, but for food that endures to eternal life

After Jesus had fed the five thousand, his disciples saw him walking on the water. Next day, the crowd that had stayed on the other side saw that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that the disciples had set off by themselves. Other boats, however, had put in from Tiberias, near the place where the bread had been eaten. When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into those boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When

they found him on the other side, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’

Jesus answered:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs
but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.
Do not work for food that cannot last,
but work for food that endures to eternal life,
the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you,
for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.’

Then they said to him, ‘What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?’ Jesus gave them this answer, ‘This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.’

The Response

Meditatio (reflection)

What does the Gospel say to me?

God has willed me to be here, now, today, for a reason. Now is the time to reflect, and find that reason, and hear what God has chosen to tell me.

A good pattern is this:

- What has drawn my attention or struck me in some way?*
- Why? Was it a person? A word? A situation? A gesture?*
- What, therefore, is God saying to me through these words, here and now, today?*

The “I” and the “me” are important. To say “we” or “us” is to evade the encounter by softening the focus and hiding behind membership of a group. The meeting with Jesus is face to face, one to one.

The shared echo

When several people are doing Lectio together, especially if they do so regularly, then there is the opportunity for each person to share the words that have had the most impact in today’s passage, or the message it has conveyed.

There is no obligation to share an echo, and some members may take many meetings before sharing one, or may even never do so.

An echo is what struck me – not “you” or “us”. It is not a mini-sermon or a carefully crafted uplifting thought. Echoes do not have echoes. The sharing of echoes and the listening to echoes are not a discussion aiming at a conclusion, but the opening of one heart to another.

The experience of sharing echoes brings the group closer together. Over time, its power grows.

Oratio (prayer)

God has spoken to me. What do I reply?

Silently, each of us responds to what God has said to him through the passage we have read and even through the echoes we have heard.

As a matter of human practicality, one person should be responsible for deciding the time taken for silent prayer. Even better, a timer or hourglass can be used. Otherwise “Are we nearly there yet?” can be a potent distraction.

Contemplatio (contemplation)

Sometimes we may be led beyond prayer into a quiet and attentive resting in the presence of God.

Conclusion

We prepare to return to the everyday world, carrying with us what we have received in our minds and our hearts today.

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.

May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Asicus, Bishop](#)

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 23 (24)

“The gates of heaven were opened to Christ because he was lifted up in the flesh” (St Irenaeus).

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things,
who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbour.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.

Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory?

The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;

grow higher, ancient doors.

Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory?

He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen.

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Saint Asicus, Bishop

see also [Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 23 (24)

“The gates of heaven were opened to Christ because he was lifted up in the flesh” (St Irenaeus).

Christ is the chief shepherd, the leader of his flock: come, let us adore him, alleluia.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things,
who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbour.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

O gates, lift high your heads;

grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Christ is the chief shepherd, the leader of his flock: come, let us adore him,
alleluia.*

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
see also [Saint Asicus, Bishop](#)

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky,
Heav'n thunders forth its victor cry:
The glad earth shouts her triumph high,
And groaning hell makes wild reply.

While he, the King of sovereign might,
Treads down death's strength in death's despite,
And trampling hell by victor's right,
Brings forth his sleeping saints to light.

Fast barred beneath the stone of late,
In watch and ward where soldiers wait,

Now shining in triumphant state,
He rises victor from death's gate.

Hell's pains are loosed and tears are fled:
Captivity is captive led:
The angel, crowned with light, hath said:
'The Lord is risen from the dead.'

Author of all, be thou our guide
In this our joy of Eastertide;
Whene'er assaults of death impend,
Thy people strengthen and defend.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,
All glory, Lord, thy people give:
All glory, as is ever meet,
To Father and to Paraclete.

Psalm 83 (84)
Longing for the Lord's temple

“We have no lasting city in this life, but we look for one in the life to come” (Heb 13:14).

My heart and my soul ring out their joy to the living God. Alleluia.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God.

The sparrow herself finds a home
and the swallow a nest for her brood;
she lays her young by your altars,
Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Sion.

As they go through the Bitter Valley
they make it a place of springs,
the autumn rain covers it with blessings.

They walk with ever growing strength,
they will see the God of gods in Sion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed.

One day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

The threshold of the house of God
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked.

For the Lord God is a rampart, a shield;
he will give us his favour and glory.

The Lord will not refuse any good
to those who walk without blame.

Lord, God of hosts,
happy the man who trusts in you!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

My heart and my soul ring out their joy to the living God. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Bless your people, Lord. You have given us the law that we may walk from strength to strength and raise our minds to you from this valley of tears. May we receive the gifts you have gained for us.

Or:

Almighty God, you listened to the prayer of Christ, your Chosen One, and granted him the lasting joy of your presence. Help us to love your Church on her pilgrimage toward you and to offer the sacrifice of praise at your altar. May we hasten to your home and joyfully look upon your glorious splendour.

Canticle

Isaiah 2

The mountain of the house of the Lord

“All the peoples will come and worship you” (Rev 15:4).

Great is the Temple of the Lord: all the nations will go there to worship, alleluia.

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

And many peoples shall come, and say:
‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.’
For out of Sion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Great is the Temple of the Lord: all the nations will go there to worship,
alleluia.*

Psalm 95 (96)
The Lord, the universal King and judge

*“They were singing a new hymn in front of the throne, in the presence
of the Lamb” (cf Rev 14:3).*

Proclaim to the nations, ‘God is king,’ alleluia.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.

It was the Lord who made the heavens,

his are majesty and state and power
and splendour in his holy place.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.

Bring an offering and enter his courts,
worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.

Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
The world he made firm in its place;
he will judge the peoples in fairness.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy

at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Proclaim to the nations, 'God is king,' alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord, you have renewed the face of the earth. Your Church throughout the world sings you a new song, announcing your wonders to all. Through a virgin, you have brought forth a new birth in our world; through your

miracles, a new power; through your suffering, a new patience; in your resurrection, a new hope, and in your ascension, new majesty.

Or:

Lord Jesus, the incarnate Word, when you consented to dwell with us, the heavens were glad and earth rejoiced. In hope and love we await your return. Help us to proclaim your glory to those who do not know you, until the whole earth sings to you a new song.

Short Reading

Romans 10:8-10

The word is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart: the word, that is, of the faith we proclaim. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved.

Short Responsory

The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.
– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*
For our sake he died on the cross, alleluia, alleluia.
– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

Work not for the food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life. Alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour

in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Work not for the food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to
eternal life. Alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

The Father has glorified Jesus and handed over to him the whole of
creation. Let us praise him in our morning prayer.

– *Lord, save us through your victory.*

Lord Jesus, you have broken the power of hell, destroying sin and death;
do not let us be defeated in our struggle with temptation.

– *Lord, save us through your victory.*

You have ended death for ever and given us new life;
guide our steps today along the path that leads to God.

– *Lord, save us through your victory.*

You rose from the dead to renew all men;
grant eternal life to everyone we meet.

– *Lord, save us through your victory.*

The disciples rejoiced when you came back from the grave;
fill the hearts of your servants with overflowing joy.

– *Lord, save us through your victory.*

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.

God and Father,

to those who go astray

you reveal the light of your truth

and enable them to return to the right path.

Grant that all who have received the grace of baptism

may strive to be worthy of their Christian calling

and reject everything opposed to it.

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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Saint Asicus, Bishop

see also [Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Who are these like stars appearing,
these, before God's throne who stand?

Each a golden crown is wearing;

who are all this glorious band?

Alleluia! Hark, they sing,

praising loud their heavenly King.

Who are these of dazzling brightness,
clothed in God's own righteousness?

These, whose robes of purest whiteness,

shall their lustre still possess,

still untouched by time's rude hand?

Whence came all this glorious band?

These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on till life was ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.

These are they whose hearts were riven,
sore with woe and anguish tried,
who in prayer full oft have striven
with the God they glorified;
now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.

These, the Almighty contemplating,
did as priests before him stand,
soul and body always waiting
day and night at his command:
now in God's most holy place
blest they stand before his face.

Psalm 83 (84)
Longing for the Lord's temple

“We have no lasting city in this life, but we look for one in the life to come” (Heb 13:14).

My heart and my soul ring out their joy to the living God. Alleluia.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God.

The sparrow herself finds a home
and the swallow a nest for her brood;
she lays her young by your altars,
Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Sion.

As they go through the Bitter Valley
they make it a place of springs,
the autumn rain covers it with blessings.
They walk with ever growing strength,
they will see the God of gods in Sion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed.

One day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.
The threshold of the house of God
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked.

For the Lord God is a rampart, a shield;
he will give us his favour and glory.
The Lord will not refuse any good
to those who walk without blame.

Lord, God of hosts,
happy the man who trusts in you!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

My heart and my soul ring out their joy to the living God. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Bless your people, Lord. You have given us the law that we may walk from strength to strength and raise our minds to you from this valley of tears. May we receive the gifts you have gained for us.

Or:

Almighty God, you listened to the prayer of Christ, your Chosen One, and granted him the lasting joy of your presence. Help us to love your Church on her pilgrimage toward you and to offer the sacrifice of praise at your altar. May we hasten to your home and joyfully look upon your glorious splendour.

Canticle

Isaiah 2

The mountain of the house of the Lord

“All the peoples will come and worship you” (Rev 15:4).

Great is the Temple of the Lord: all the nations will go there to worship, alleluia.

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

And many peoples shall come, and say:
‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.’
For out of Sion shall go forth the law,

and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Great is the Temple of the Lord: all the nations will go there to worship,
alleluia.*

Psalm 95 (96)

The Lord, the universal King and judge

*“They were singing a new hymn in front of the throne, in the presence
of the Lamb” (cf Rev 14:3).*

Proclaim to the nations, ‘God is king,’ alleluia.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.

It was the Lord who made the heavens,
his are majesty and state and power
and splendour in his holy place.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.

Bring an offering and enter his courts,
worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.

Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
The world he made firm in its place;
he will judge the peoples in fairness.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy

at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Proclaim to the nations, 'God is king,' alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord, you have renewed the face of the earth. Your Church throughout the world sings you a new song, announcing your wonders to all. Through a virgin, you have brought forth a new birth in our world; through your miracles, a new power; through your suffering, a new patience; in your resurrection, a new hope, and in your ascension, new majesty.

Or:

Lord Jesus, the incarnate Word, when you consented to dwell with us, the heavens were glad and earth rejoiced. In hope and love we await your return. Help us to proclaim your glory to those who do not know you, until the whole earth sings to you a new song.

Short Reading

Hebrews 13:7-9

Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for ever. Do not let yourselves be led astray by all sorts of strange doctrines.

Short Responsory

I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.
– *I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.*
They will never cease to tell of the name of the Lord, by day and by night.
– *I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

It is not you who speak: the Spirit of your Father speaks in you. Alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

It is not you who speak: the Spirit of your Father speaks in you. Alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Christ, the good shepherd, laid down his life for his sheep. Let us praise him
with grateful hearts, as we pray:
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

Christ our Lord, in the holy pastors you reveal your love for us;
may we never be deprived of the care you show through them.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

Through your sacred ministers you are present in our midst as the shepherd
of our souls;
never cease to guide us through their teaching and encouragement.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

In the saints who lead your people, you manifest your power of healing
souls and bodies;
remain always with us to renew our lives in holiness.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

By the example of the saints you instruct your faithful in the ways of
wisdom and love;
through our pastors, help us grow to the full stature of perfection.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

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.

O God of heaven, by whose grace Saint Asicus became a disciple of Patrick
and worked for the beauty of your worship,
be pleased, by his prayers,
to make of our lives a work of art fashioned for the glory of your name.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
see also [Saint Asicus, Bishop](#)

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

O Christ, the heavens' eternal King,
Creator, unto thee we sing,
With God the Father ever One,
Co-equal, co-eternal Son.

Thy hand, when first the world began,
Made in thine own pure image man,
And linked to fleshly form of earth
A living soul of heavenly birth.

And when the envious crafty foe
Had marred thy noblest work below,
Thou didst our ruined state repair
By deigning flesh thyself to wear.

Once of a virgin born to save,
And now new born from death's dark grave,
O Christ, thou bidd'st us rise with thee
From death to immortality.

Eternal Shepherd, thou art wont
To cleanse Thy sheep within the font,
That mystic bath, that grave of sin,
Where ransomed souls new life begin.

Divine Redeemer, thou didst deign
To bear for us the cross of pain,
And freely pay the precious price
Of all thy blood in sacrifice.

Jesu, do thou to every heart
Unceasing Paschal joy impart;
From death of sin and guilty strife
Set free the new born sons of life.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 122 (123)
The Lord guards his people

“The two blind men cried out, ‘Lord, have pity on us, Son of David’”
(Mt 20:30).

*The Lord will be your everlasting light, your God will be your glory,
alleluia.*

To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens;
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords.

Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he show us his mercy.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*The Lord will be your everlasting light, your God will be your glory,
alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Father in heaven, we lift our eyes to you and pray: confound the scorn of
the proud and graciously show us your mercy.

Or:

Lord Jesus Christ, you will wait on the servants who have kept faithful
watch for you. Teach us to keep our eyes fixed on every trace of the work of
your hands, so that we may watch for your coming and enter your home,
our lamps radiant with light.

Psalm 123 (124) Our help is in the name of the Lord

“The Lord said to Paul, ‘Do not fear; for I am with you’”
(Acts 18:9,10).

The snare has been broken and we have escaped, alleluia.

‘If the Lord had not been on our side,’
this is Israel’s song.

‘If the Lord had not been on our side
when men rose up against us,
then would they have swallowed us alive
when their anger was kindled.

‘Then would the waters have engulfed us,
the torrent gone over us;
over our head would have swept
the raging waters.’

Blessed be the Lord who did not give us
a prey to their teeth!
Our life, like a bird, has escaped
from the snare of the fowler.

Indeed the snare has been broken
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The snare has been broken and we have escaped, alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus, you foretold that your disciples would be despised on account of your name, but that not a hair of their heads is ever forgotten. In times of persecution, defend and revive us by the power and comfort of the Holy Spirit, so that we can be freed from our enemies and praise your saving help.

God the Saviour

*When I am lifted up above the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.
Alleluia.*

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy
and blameless before him.

He destined us in love
to be his sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,
to the praise of his glorious grace
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace
which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us
in all wisdom and insight
the mystery of his will,
according to his purpose
which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ
as a plan for the fullness of time,
to unite all things in him,
things in heaven and things on earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

*When I am lifted up above the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.
Alleluia.*

Short Reading

Hebrews 8:1-3

Our High Priest has his place at the right of the throne of divine Majesty in the heavens, and he is the minister of the sanctuary and of the true Tent of Meeting which the Lord, and not any man, set up. It is the duty of every high priest to offer gifts and sacrifices.

Short Responsory

The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.
– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*
They saw the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.
– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

*This is the work that God requires: believe in the one whom he has sent.
Alleluia.*

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

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*This is the work that God requires: believe in the one whom he has sent.
Alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to Christ, who was raised up by the Holy Spirit in his living and
life-giving body.

– *Lord, renew the whole of your creation.*

Christ, Saviour of the world, king of the new creation, you are enthroned at
God's right hand;

set our hearts on the things that are of heaven.

– *Lord, renew the whole of your creation.*

Lord, you are living always in your Church:
lead her through the Holy Spirit into the fullness of your truth.
– *Lord, renew the whole of your creation.*

Have pity on the sick, the distressed and the dying;
strengthen, comfort and sustain them.
– *Lord, renew the whole of your creation.*

Christ, unfailing light, accept our devotion at the close of this day;
shed the radiance of your glory on the faithful departed.
– *Lord, renew the whole of your creation.*

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.

God and Father,
to those who go astray
you reveal the light of your truth
and enable them to return to the right path.
Grant that all who have received the grace of baptism
may strive to be worthy of their Christian calling
and reject everything opposed to it.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Saint Asicus, Bishop

see also [Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Who are these like stars appearing,
these, before God's throne who stand?

Each a golden crown is wearing;

who are all this glorious band?

Alleluia! Hark, they sing,

praising loud their heavenly King.

Who are these of dazzling brightness,
clothed in God's own righteousness?

These, whose robes of purest whiteness,

shall their lustre still possess,

still untouched by time's rude hand?

Whence came all this glorious band?

These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on till life was ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.

These are they whose hearts were riven,
sore with woe and anguish tried,
who in prayer full oft have striven
with the God they glorified;
now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.

These, the Almighty contemplating,
did as priests before him stand,
soul and body always waiting
day and night at his command:
now in God's most holy place
blest they stand before his face.

Psalm 122 (123)
The Lord guards his people

*“The two blind men cried out, ‘Lord, have pity on us, Son of David’”
(Mt 20:30).*

*The Lord will be your everlasting light, your God will be your glory,
alleluia.*

To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens;
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords.

Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of her mistress,

so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he show us his mercy.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

We are filled with contempt.

Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*The Lord will be your everlasting light, your God will be your glory,
alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Father in heaven, we lift our eyes to you and pray: confound the scorn of
the proud and graciously show us your mercy.

Or:

Lord Jesus Christ, you will wait on the servants who have kept faithful
watch for you. Teach us to keep our eyes fixed on every trace of the work of
your hands, so that we may watch for your coming and enter your home,
our lamps radiant with light.

Psalm 123 (124)

Our help is in the name of the Lord

*“The Lord said to Paul, ‘Do not fear; for I am with you’”
(Acts 18:9,10).*

The snare has been broken and we have escaped, alleluia.

‘If the Lord had not been on our side,’
this is Israel’s song.

‘If the Lord had not been on our side
when men rose up against us,
then would they have swallowed us alive
when their anger was kindled.

‘Then would the waters have engulfed us,
the torrent gone over us;
over our head would have swept
the raging waters.’

Blessed be the Lord who did not give us
a prey to their teeth!
Our life, like a bird, has escaped
from the snare of the fowler.

Indeed the snare has been broken
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The snare has been broken and we have escaped, alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus, you foretold that your disciples would be despised on account of your name, but that not a hair of their heads is ever forgotten. In times of persecution, defend and revive us by the power and comfort of the Holy Spirit, so that we can be freed from our enemies and praise your saving help.

God the Saviour

*When I am lifted up above the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.
Alleluia.*

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy
and blameless before him.

He destined us in love
to be his sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,
to the praise of his glorious grace
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace
which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us
in all wisdom and insight
the mystery of his will,
according to his purpose
which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ
as a plan for the fullness of time,
to unite all things in him,
things in heaven and things on earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*When I am lifted up above the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.
Alleluia.*

Short Reading

1 Peter 5:1-4

Now I have something to tell your elders: I am an elder myself, and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and with you I have a share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be the shepherds of the flock of God that is entrusted to you: watch over it, not simply as a duty but gladly, because God wants it; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

Short Responsory

This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people. Alleluia, alleluia.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

He laid down his life for his brothers.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

This is the faithful and wise steward whom the Master placed over his household to give them their measure of food at the proper time. Alleluia.

Or: I thank you, Christ, for honouring me by leading me to this glory. You are the good shepherd; I pray that the sheep which you have placed in my charge will share with me in your glory for ever. Alleluia.

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

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

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

This is the faithful and wise steward whom the Master placed over his household to give them their measure of food at the proper time.

Alleluia.

Or: I thank you, Christ, for honouring me by leading me to this glory. You are the good shepherd; I pray that the sheep which you have placed in my charge will share with me in your glory for ever. Alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to Christ, the high priest, who was appointed to represent men in their relations with God.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Lord Jesus, in times past you have lighted the way for your people through wise and holy leaders;

may Christians always enjoy this sign of your loving kindness.

– *Lord, save your people.*

You forgave the sins of your people when holy pastors prayed; continually cleanse your Church through their powerful intercession.

– *Lord, save your people.*

In the presence of their brothers, you anointed your holy ones and poured on them your Spirit;

fill with your Holy Spirit all the leaders of your people.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Nothing could ever separate the holy pastors from your love; do not lose even one of those whom you redeemed by your passion.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Through the pastors of your Church you give your sheep eternal life, and no one can steal them from you;

save the faithful departed, for whom you laid down your life.

– *Lord, save your people.*

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.

O God of heaven, by whose grace Saint Asicus became a disciple of Patrick
and worked for the beauty of your worship,
be pleased, by his prayers,
to make of our lives a work of art fashioned for the glory of your name.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
or Saint Asicus, Bishop

Compline (Night Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Examination of Conscience

This is an excellent moment for an examination of conscience. In a communal celebration of Compline, one of the penitential acts given in the Missal may be recited.

Hymn

Jesu, the world's redeeming Lord,
The Father's co-eternal Word,
Of light invisible true Light,
Thine Israel's Keeper day and night.

Our great Creator and our Guide,
Who times and seasons dost divide,
Refresh at night with quiet rest,
Our limbs by daily toil oppressed.

We pray thee, while we dwell below,
Preserve us from our ghostly foe;
Nor let his wiles victorious be
O'er them that are redeemed by thee.

That while in this frail house of clay
A little longer here we stay,
Our flesh in thee may sweetly sleep,
Our souls with thee their vigils keep.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be,
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 85 (86)
A poor man's prayer in time of trouble

“Blessed be God, who comforts us in all our sorrows” (2 Cor 1:3-4).

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer
for I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am faithful;
save the servant who trusts in you.

You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.
Give joy to your servant, O Lord,
for to you I lift up my soul.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

In the day of distress I will call

and surely you will reply.
Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord;
nor work to compare with yours.

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God.

Show me, Lord, your way
so that I may walk in your truth.
Guide my heart to fear your name.

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart
and glorify your name for ever;
for your love to me has been great:
you have saved me from the depths of the grave.

The proud have risen against me;
ruthless men seek my life;
to you they pay no heed.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

O give your strength to your servant
and save your handmaid's son.
Show me a sign of your favour
that my foes may see to their shame
that you console me and give me your help.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

God of mercy and goodness, when Christ called out to you in torment, you heard him and gave him victory over death because of his love for you. We already know the affection you have for us; fill us with a greater love of your name and we will proclaim you more boldly before men and happily lead them to celebrate your glory.

Short Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

God chose us to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us in order that we might live together with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes.

Short Responsory

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.

At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation

which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may
keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.*

Let us pray.

Lord, give our bodies restful sleep;
and let the work we have done today
be sown for an eternal harvest.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!
has risen as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!

Regína cæli, lætare, allelúia,
quia quem meruísti portáre, allelúia,
resurréxit sicut dixit, allelúia;
ora pro nobis Deum, allelúia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Asicus, Bishop](#)

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, putting off our old self with all its ways,
we may live as Christ did,
for through the healing paschal remedies
you have conformed us to his nature.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Acts 6:8-15

They could not get the better of Stephen because the Spirit prompted what he said

Stephen was filled with grace and power and began to work miracles and great signs among the people. But then certain people came forward to debate with Stephen, some from Cyrene and Alexandria who were members

of the synagogue called the Synagogue of Freedmen, and others from Cilicia and Asia. They found they could not get the better of him because of his wisdom, and because it was the Spirit that prompted what he said. So they procured some men to say, 'We heard him using blasphemous language against Moses and against God.' Having in this way turned the people against him as well as the elders and scribes, they took Stephen by surprise, and arrested him and brought him before the Sanhedrin. There they put up false witnesses to say, 'This man is always making speeches against this Holy Place and the Law. We have heard him say that Jesus the Nazarene is going to destroy this Place and alter the traditions that Moses handed down to us.' The members of the Sanhedrin all looked intently at Stephen, and his face appeared to them like the face of an angel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118(119):23-24,26-27,29-30

They are happy whose life is blameless.

or

Alleluia!

Though princes sit plotting against me

I ponder on your statutes.

Your will is my delight;

your statutes are my counsellors.

They are happy whose life is blameless.

or

Alleluia!

I declared my ways and you answered;

teach me your statutes.

Make me grasp the way of your precepts

and I will muse on your wonders.

They are happy whose life is blameless.

or

Alleluia!

Keep me from the way of error
and teach me your law.
I have chosen the way of truth
with your decrees before me.

They are happy whose life is blameless.

or

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

Jn20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
‘You believe, Thomas, because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.
Alleluia!

Or:

Mt4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:22-29

Do not work for food that cannot last, but for food that endures to eternal life

After Jesus had fed the five thousand, his disciples saw him walking on the water. Next day, the crowd that had stayed on the other side saw that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that the disciples had set off by themselves. Other boats, however, had put in from Tiberias, near the place where the bread had been eaten. When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into those boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’

Jesus answered:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs
but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.
Do not work for food that cannot last,
but work for food that endures to eternal life,
the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you,
for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.’

Then they said to him, ‘What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?’ Jesus gave them this answer, ‘This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.’

Prayer over the Offerings

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Jn 14: 27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give it to you, says the Lord, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life
in the Resurrection of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Monday 27 April 2020

Saint Asicus, Bishop

see also [Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord chose him for himself as high priest,
and, opening his treasure house,
made him rich in all good things, alleluia.

Or:

Cf. Sir 50: 1; 44: 16, 22

Behold a great priest, who in his days pleased God;
therefore, in accordance with his promise,
the Lord gave him growth for the good of his people, alleluia.

Collect

O God of heaven, by whose grace Saint Asicus became a disciple of Patrick
and worked for the beauty of your worship,
be pleased, by his prayers,
to make of our lives a work of art fashioned for the glory of your name.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

[Readings for the feria](#)

[Readings for the memorial](#)

These are the readings for the feria

First reading

Acts 6:8-15

They could not get the better of Stephen because the Spirit prompted what he said

Stephen was filled with grace and power and began to work miracles and great signs among the people. But then certain people came forward to debate with Stephen, some from Cyrene and Alexandria who were members of the synagogue called the Synagogue of Freedmen, and others from Cilicia and Asia. They found they could not get the better of him because of his wisdom, and because it was the Spirit that prompted what he said. So they procured some men to say, 'We heard him using blasphemous language against Moses and against God.' Having in this way turned the people against him as well as the elders and scribes, they took Stephen by surprise, and arrested him and brought him before the Sanhedrin. There they put up false witnesses to say, 'This man is always making speeches against this Holy Place and the Law. We have heard him say that Jesus the Nazarene is going to destroy this Place and alter the traditions that Moses handed down to us.' The members of the Sanhedrin all looked intently at Stephen, and his face appeared to them like the face of an angel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118(119):23-24,26-27,29-30

They are happy whose life is blameless.

or

Alleluia!

Though princes sit plotting against me
I ponder on your statutes.
Your will is my delight;
your statutes are my counsellors.

They are happy whose life is blameless.

or

Alleluia!

I declared my ways and you answered;
teach me your statutes.
Make me grasp the way of your precepts
and I will muse on your wonders.

They are happy whose life is blameless.

or

Alleluia!

Keep me from the way of error
and teach me your law.
I have chosen the way of truth
with your decrees before me.

They are happy whose life is blameless.

or

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

Jn20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
‘You believe, Thomas, because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.
Alleluia!

Or:

Mt4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:22-29

Do not work for food that cannot last, but for food that endures to eternal life

After Jesus had fed the five thousand, his disciples saw him walking on the water. Next day, the crowd that had stayed on the other side saw that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that the disciples had set off by themselves. Other boats, however, had put in from Tiberias, near the place where the bread had been eaten. When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into those boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’

Jesus answered:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs
but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.
Do not work for food that cannot last,
but work for food that endures to eternal life,
the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you,
for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.’

Then they said to him, ‘What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?’ Jesus gave them this answer, ‘This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.’

[Continue](#)

These are the readings for the memorial

[Acts 13:46-49](#) Since you have rejected the word of God, we must turn to the pagans

[Acts 20:17-18,28-32,36](#) I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, and its power

[Acts 26:19-23](#) I have stood firm to this day, testifying to great and small alike

First reading

Acts 13:46-49

Since you have rejected the word of God, we must turn to the pagans

Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. ‘We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

*I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.’*

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

[Continue](#)

First reading

Acts 20:17-18,28-32,36

I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, and its power

From Miletus Paul sent for the elders of the church of Ephesus. When they arrived he addressed these words to them:

‘Be on your guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you the overseers, to feed the Church of God which he bought with his own blood. I know

quite well that when I have gone fierce wolves will invade you and will have no mercy on the flock. Even from your own ranks there will be men coming forward with a travesty of the truth on their lips to induce the disciples to follow them. So be on your guard, remembering how night and day for three years I never failed to keep you right, shedding tears over each one of you. And now I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace that has power to build you up and to give you your inheritance among all the sanctified.’

When he had finished speaking he knelt down with them all and prayed.

[Continue](#)

First reading

Acts 26:19-23

I have stood firm to this day, testifying to great and small alike

Paul said: ‘King Agrippa, I could not disobey the heavenly vision. On the contrary I started preaching, first to the people of Damascus, then to those of Jerusalem and all the countryside of Judaea, and also to the pagans, urging them to repent and turn to God, proving their change of heart by their deeds. This was why the Jews laid hands on me in the Temple and tried to do away with me. But I was blessed with God’s help, and so I have stood firm to this day, testifying to great and small alike, saying nothing more than what the prophets and Moses himself said would happen: that the Christ was to suffer and that, as the first to rise from the dead, he was to proclaim that light now shone for our people and for the pagans too.’

[Continue](#)

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 88(89):2-5,21-22,25,27

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

‘I have found David my servant
and with my holy oil anointed him.
My hand shall always be with him
and my arm shall make him strong.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

‘My truth and my love shall be with him;
by my name his might shall be exalted.
He will say to me: “You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.”’

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt23:9,10

Alleluia, alleluia!
You have only one Father, and he is in heaven;
you have only one Teacher, the Christ.
Alleluia!

Or:

Mt28:19,20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go, make disciples of all the nations.

I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

Alleluia!

Or:

Mk1:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

Follow me, says the Lord,

and I will make you into fishers of men.

Alleluia!

Or:

Lk4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives.

Alleluia!

Or:

Jn10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia!

Or:

Jn15:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the vine,

you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him,

bears fruit in plenty,

says the Lord.

Alleluia!

Or:

2Co5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself,
and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 9:35-37

The harvest is rich but the labourers are few

Jesus made a tour through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness.

And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.’

[Continue](#)

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept this sacrifice from your people, we pray, O Lord,
and make what is offered for your glory,
in honour of blessed **N.**,
a means to our eternal salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Jn 10: 11

The Good Shepherd has laid down his life
for his sheep, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

May the Sacrament we have received, O Lord our God,
stir up in us that fire of charity

with which blessed **N.** burned ardently
as he gave himself unceasingly for your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr](#)

see also [Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest](#)

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr

see also [Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

see also [Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest](#)

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest

see also [Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

see also [Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr](#)

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
or Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr
or Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest

Lectio Divina

Introduction

Make whatever preparations you need to leave the shadow world behind and encounter the fire of the Spirit and the light of God.

If you have chosen a specific bodily position, adopt it. If you have chosen to prepare the space and the place in some way (perhaps drawing a curtain or lighting a candle), make that preparation.

Eliminate distractions and the possibility of interruption.

Sign of the Cross

We invoke God, in whose name we act and to whom we are about to open ourselves.

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

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

We invoke the Holy Spirit, who will speak to us and listen in us.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Act of Contrition

By acknowledging our sinfulness and admitting that by ourselves we can do nothing that is not flawed, we ask God to take the initiative in this encounter.

Have mercy on us, O Lord:
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy:
And grant us your salvation.

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

Amen.

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The Gospel should be read slowly, meditatively, with pauses between sentences or whenever the sense requires it. The aim is not to tell the text to God, who knows it already, but to let God tell it to us. For this, there have to be silences so that what God is telling us can be heard.

When a group is doing Lectio Divina, it is usually best to take turns in reading the words of the Gospel, since for many people speaking will bring the words to mind better than hearing does. But do not let this become a distraction in itself: have a clear order known in advance, and a simple signal for handing over the baton from one person to the next.

John 6:30-35

It is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven

The people said to Jesus, ‘What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*’

Jesus answered:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven,
it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven,
the true bread;

for the bread of God
is that which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.’

‘Sir,’ they said ‘give us that bread always.’ Jesus answered:

‘I am the bread of life.
He who comes to me will never be hungry;
he who believes in me will never thirst.’

The Response

Meditatio (reflection)

What does the Gospel say to me?

God has willed me to be here, now, today, for a reason. Now is the time to reflect, and find that reason, and hear what God has chosen to tell me.

A good pattern is this:

- What has drawn my attention or struck me in some way?*
- Why? Was it a person? A word? A situation? A gesture?*
- What, therefore, is God saying to me through these words, here and now, today?*

The “I” and the “me” are important. To say “we” or “us” is to evade the encounter by softening the focus and hiding behind membership of a group. The meeting with Jesus is face to face, one to one.

The shared echo

When several people are doing Lectio together, especially if they do so regularly, then there is the opportunity for each person to share the words that have had the most impact in today’s passage, or the message it has conveyed.

There is no obligation to share an echo, and some members may take many meetings before sharing one, or may even never do so.

An echo is what struck me – not “you” or “us”. It is not a mini-sermon or a carefully crafted uplifting thought. Echoes do not have echoes. The sharing of echoes and the listening to echoes are not a discussion aiming at a conclusion, but the opening of one heart to another.

The experience of sharing echoes brings the group closer together. Over time, its power grows.

Oratio (prayer)

God has spoken to me. What do I reply?

Silently, each of us responds to what God has said to him through the passage we have read and even through the echoes we have heard.

As a matter of human practicality, one person should be responsible for deciding the time taken for silent prayer. Even better, a timer or hourglass can be used. Otherwise “Are we nearly there yet?” can be a potent distraction.

Contemplatio (contemplation)

Sometimes we may be led beyond prayer into a quiet and attentive resting in the presence of God.

Conclusion

We prepare to return to the everyday world, carrying with us what we have received in our minds and our hearts today.

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.

May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr](#)

see also [Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest](#)

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 99 (100)

*“The Lord calls all those he has redeemed to sing a hymn of victory”
(St Athanasius).*

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Go within his gates, giving thanks.

Enter his courts with songs of praise.

Give thanks to him and bless his name.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr

see also [Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

see also [Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest](#)

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 99 (100)

*“The Lord calls all those he has redeemed to sing a hymn of victory”
(St Athanasius).*

The Lord is the king of martyrs: come, let us adore him, alleluia.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Go within his gates, giving thanks.

Enter his courts with songs of praise.

Give thanks to him and bless his name.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord is the king of martyrs: come, let us adore him, alleluia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest

see also [Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

see also [Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr](#)

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 99 (100)

*“The Lord calls all those he has redeemed to sing a hymn of victory”
(St Athanasius).*

*Christ is the chief shepherd, the leader of his flock: come, let us adore him,
alleluia.*

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Go within his gates, giving thanks.

Enter his courts with songs of praise.

Give thanks to him and bless his name.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Christ is the chief shepherd, the leader of his flock: come, let us adore him,
alleluia.*

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr](#)

see also [Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest](#)

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky,

Heav'n thunders forth its victor cry:

The glad earth shouts her triumph high,

And groaning hell makes wild reply.

While he, the King of sovereign might,

Treads down death's strength in death's despite,

And trampling hell by victor's right,

Brings forth his sleeping saints to light.

Fast barred beneath the stone of late,

In watch and ward where soldiers wait,
Now shining in triumphant state,
He rises victor from death's gate.

Hell's pains are loosed and tears are fled:
Captivity is captive led:
The angel, crowned with light, hath said:
'The Lord is risen from the dead.'

Author of all, be thou our guide
In this our joy of Eastertide;
Whene'er assaults of death impend,
Thy people strengthen and defend.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,
All glory, Lord, thy people give:
All glory, as is ever meet,
To Father and to Paraclete.

Psalm 84 (85)
Our salvation is very near

“When our Saviour came on earth God blessed his land” (Origen).

You will restore our life again, Lord, and your people will rejoice in you.
Alleluia.

O Lord, you once favoured your land
and revived the fortunes of Jacob,
you forgave the guilt of your people
and covered all their sins.

You averted all your rage,
you calmed the heat of your anger.

Revive us now, God, our helper!
Put an end to your grievance against us.
Will you be angry with us for ever,
will your anger never cease?

Will you not restore again our life
that your people may rejoice in you?
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people and his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*You will restore our life again, Lord, and your people will rejoice in you.
Alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Show us your mercy, Lord; our misery is known to us. May no evil desires prevail over us, for your glory and love dwell in our hearts.

Or:

God of love and fidelity, you loved the world enough to give your only Son as Saviour and from a virgin brought him forth to the world. May we receive him as both Lord and brother and freely celebrate him as our gracious redeemer.

Canticle

Isaiah 26

Hymn after victory over the enemy

“The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones” (cf. Rev 21:14).

We put our trust in the Lord and he gave us peace. Alleluia.

We have a strong city;
 he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.
Open the gates
 that the righteous nation which keeps faith may enter in.

You keep him in perfect peace,
 whose mind is stayed on you,
 because he trusts in you.
Trust in the Lord for ever,
 for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

The way of the righteous is level;
 you make smooth the path of the righteous.
In the path of your judgements, O Lord,
 we wait for you.

My soul yearns for you in the night,
 my spirit within me earnestly seeks you;
for when your judgements are in the earth,
 the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

O Lord, you will ordain peace for us;
 you have wrought for us all our works.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

We put our trust in the Lord and he gave us peace. Alleluia.

Psalm 66 (67)
All peoples, praise the Lord

“Let it be known to you that this salvation from God has been sent to all peoples” (Acts 28:28).

The earth has yielded its fruit: let the nations be glad and exult. Alleluia.

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its fruit
for God, our God, has blessed us.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The earth has yielded its fruit: let the nations be glad and exult. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Be gracious and bless us, Lord, and let your face shed its light on us, so that we can make you known with reverence and bring forth a harvest of justice.

Or:

All peoples praise you, Father, because through your kindly power the earth has brought forth its fruit, the tree of the cross. We ask that this cross unite all peoples in its embrace and feed them with its fruit, everlasting life.

Short Reading

Acts 13:30-33

God raised Jesus from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had accompanied him from Galilee to Jerusalem: and it is these same companions of his who are now his witnesses before our people. We have come here to tell you the Good News. It was to our ancestors that God made the promise but it is to us, their children, that he has fulfilled it, by raising Jesus from the dead. As scripture says in the second psalm: *You are my son: today I have become your father.*

Short Responsory

The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*

For our sake he died on the cross, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

*I tell you solemnly, Moses did not give you bread from heaven, it is my
Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. Alleluia.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,

and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*I tell you solemnly, Moses did not give you bread from heaven, it is my
Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. Alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

By his own power Christ rebuilt the temple of his body, when it was torn
down by death. Let us pray to him with joy.

– *Lord, grant us the blessings of your resurrection.*

Lord Jesus, in your risen body you brought the good news of salvation to
the women and the apostles;

let us be your witnesses in this present age.

– *Lord, grant us the blessings of your resurrection.*

You gave all men the promise of rising from the dead;

make us heralds of your gospel, bringing men new hope.

– *Lord, grant us the blessings of your resurrection.*

You appeared to the apostles and breathed the Holy Spirit upon them;

pour out on us the Spirit who creates and renews.

– *Lord, grant us the blessings of your resurrection.*

You promised to be with your disciples to the end of time;

stay with us throughout this day and remain with us for ever.

– *Lord, grant us the blessings of your resurrection.*

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.

God our Father,
you open the gates of the kingdom of heaven
to those who are born again of water and the Holy Spirit
Increase the grace you have given,
so that the people you have purified from all sin
may not forfeit the promised blessings of your love.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr

see also [Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

see also [Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest](#)

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

All hail the power of Jesus' name;

Let Angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem

To crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye Martyrs of your God,

Who from his altar call;

Praise him whose way of pain ye trod,

And crown him Lord of all.

Hail him, ye heirs of David's line,

Whom David Lord did call;
The God Incarnate, Man Divine,
And crown him Lord of all.

Let every tribe and every tongue
To him their hearts enthrall,
Lift high the universal song,
And crown him Lord of all.

Psalm 84 (85)
Our salvation is very near

“When our Saviour came on earth God blessed his land” (Origen).

You will restore our life again, Lord, and your people will rejoice in you.
Alleluia.

O Lord, you once favoured your land
and revived the fortunes of Jacob,
you forgave the guilt of your people
and covered all their sins.
You averted all your rage,
you calmed the heat of your anger.

Revive us now, God, our helper!
Put an end to your grievance against us.
Will you be angry with us for ever,
will your anger never cease?

Will you not restore again our life
that your people may rejoice in you?
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people and his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*You will restore our life again, Lord, and your people will rejoice in you.
Alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Show us your mercy, Lord; our misery is known to us. May no evil desires prevail over us, for your glory and love dwell in our hearts.

Or:

God of love and fidelity, you loved the world enough to give your only Son as Saviour and from a virgin brought him forth to the world. May we receive him as both Lord and brother and freely celebrate him as our gracious redeemer.

Canticle

Isaiah 26

Hymn after victory over the enemy

“The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones” (cf. Rev 21:14).

We put our trust in the Lord and he gave us peace. Alleluia.

We have a strong city;

he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.

Open the gates

that the righteous nation which keeps faith may enter in.

You keep him in perfect peace,

whose mind is stayed on you,

because he trusts in you.

Trust in the Lord for ever,

for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

The way of the righteous is level;

you make smooth the path of the righteous.

In the path of your judgements, O Lord,

we wait for you.

My soul yearns for you in the night,

my spirit within me earnestly seeks you;

for when your judgements are in the earth,

the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

O Lord, you will ordain peace for us;

you have wrought for us all our works.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen.

We put our trust in the Lord and he gave us peace. Alleluia.

Psalm 66 (67)

All peoples, praise the Lord

“Let it be known to you that this salvation from God has been sent to all peoples” (Acts 28:28).

The earth has yielded its fruit: let the nations be glad and exult. Alleluia.

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its fruit
for God, our God, has blessed us.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The earth has yielded its fruit: let the nations be glad and exult. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Be gracious and bless us, Lord, and let your face shed its light on us, so that we can make you known with reverence and bring forth a harvest of justice.

Or:

All peoples praise you, Father, because through your kindly power the earth has brought forth its fruit, the tree of the cross. We ask that this cross unite all peoples in its embrace and feed them with its fruit, everlasting life.

Short Reading

1 John 5:3-5

This is what loving God is – keeping his commandments;
and his commandments are not difficult,
because anyone who has been begotten by God
has already overcome the world.
This is the victory over the world – our faith.
Who can overcome the world?
Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Short Responsory

The Lord is my strength. I will sing praise to him. Alleluia, alleluia.
– *The Lord is my strength. I will sing praise to him. Alleluia, alleluia.*
He is my salvation.
– *The Lord is my strength. I will sing praise to him. Alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *The Lord is my strength. I will sing praise to him. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

*Rejoice, all you saints, and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
alleluia.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Rejoice, all you saints, and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

Through the martyrs who were slain for God's word, let us give glory to our Saviour, the faithful and true witness.

– *You redeemed us by your precious blood.*

Through the martyrs, who bore witness to your love, set us free to live for you.

– *You redeemed us by your precious blood.*

Through the martyrs, who proclaimed your saving death, give us a deep and constant faith.

– *You redeemed us by your precious blood.*

Through the martyrs, who took up your cross, grant us courage for every trial.

– *You redeemed us by your precious blood.*

Through the martyrs, washed in the blood of the Lamb, give us grace to conquer our weakness.

– *You redeemed us by your precious blood.*

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.

Lord God, you made the martyrdom of Saint Peter Chanel serve the growth of your Church.

Give us grace, in these days of Easter joy,

so to celebrate the mysteries of Christ's death and resurrection

that we may give witness of newness of life.

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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest

see also [Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

see also [Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr](#)

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Who are these like stars appearing,
these, before God's throne who stand?

Each a golden crown is wearing;
who are all this glorious band?

Alleluia! Hark, they sing,
praising loud their heavenly King.

Who are these of dazzling brightness,
clothed in God's own righteousness?
These, whose robes of purest whiteness,
shall their lustre still possess,

still untouched by time's rude hand?
Whence came all this glorious band?

These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on till life was ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.

These are they whose hearts were riven,
sore with woe and anguish tried,
who in prayer full oft have striven
with the God they glorified;
now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.

These, the Almighty contemplating,
did as priests before him stand,
soul and body always waiting
day and night at his command:
now in God's most holy place
blest they stand before his face.

Psalm 84 (85)
Our salvation is very near

“When our Saviour came on earth God blessed his land” (Origen).

You will restore our life again, Lord, and your people will rejoice in you.
Alleluia.

O Lord, you once favoured your land
and revived the fortunes of Jacob,
you forgave the guilt of your people
and covered all their sins.
You averted all your rage,

you calmed the heat of your anger.

Revive us now, God, our helper!

Put an end to your grievance against us.

Will you be angry with us for ever,
will your anger never cease?

Will you not restore again our life
that your people may rejoice in you?

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people and his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*You will restore our life again, Lord, and your people will rejoice in you.
Alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Show us your mercy, Lord; our misery is known to us. May no evil desires prevail over us, for your glory and love dwell in our hearts.

Or:

God of love and fidelity, you loved the world enough to give your only Son as Saviour and from a virgin brought him forth to the world. May we receive him as both Lord and brother and freely celebrate him as our gracious redeemer.

Canticle

Isaiah 26

Hymn after victory over the enemy

“The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones” (cf. Rev 21:14).

We put our trust in the Lord and he gave us peace. Alleluia.

We have a strong city;

he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.

Open the gates

that the righteous nation which keeps faith may enter in.

You keep him in perfect peace,

whose mind is stayed on you,

because he trusts in you.

Trust in the Lord for ever,

for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

The way of the righteous is level;

you make smooth the path of the righteous.

In the path of your judgements, O Lord,

we wait for you.

My soul yearns for you in the night,

my spirit within me earnestly seeks you;

for when your judgements are in the earth,

the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

O Lord, you will ordain peace for us;
you have wrought for us all our works.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

We put our trust in the Lord and he gave us peace. Alleluia.

Psalm 66 (67)
All peoples, praise the Lord

“Let it be known to you that this salvation from God has been sent to all peoples” (Acts 28:28).

The earth has yielded its fruit: let the nations be glad and exult. Alleluia.

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its fruit
for God, our God, has blessed us.

May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The earth has yielded its fruit: let the nations be glad and exult. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Be gracious and bless us, Lord, and let your face shed its light on us, so that we can make you known with reverence and bring forth a harvest of justice.

Or:

All peoples praise you, Father, because through your kindly power the earth has brought forth its fruit, the tree of the cross. We ask that this cross unite all peoples in its embrace and feed them with its fruit, everlasting life.

Short Reading

Hebrews 13:7-9

Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for ever. Do not let yourselves be led astray by all sorts of strange doctrines.

Short Responsory

I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.
– *I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.*
They will never cease to tell of the name of the Lord, by day and by night.
– *I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

It is not you who speak: the Spirit of your Father speaks in you. Alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,

and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

It is not you who speak: the Spirit of your Father speaks in you. Alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Christ, the good shepherd, laid down his life for his sheep. Let us praise him
with grateful hearts, as we pray:
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

Christ our Lord, in the holy pastors you reveal your love for us;
may we never be deprived of the care you show through them.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

Through your sacred ministers you are present in our midst as the shepherd
of our souls;
never cease to guide us through their teaching and encouragement.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

In the saints who lead your people, you manifest your power of healing
souls and bodies;
remain always with us to renew our lives in holiness.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

By the example of the saints you instruct your faithful in the ways of
wisdom and love;
through our pastors, help us grow to the full stature of perfection.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

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.

Father, you made your Church grow
through the Christian zeal and apostolic work
of Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort.
By the help of his prayers
give your Church continued growth in holiness and faith.
Grant this 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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr](#)

see also [Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest](#)

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

O Christ, the heavens' eternal King,

Creator, unto thee we sing,

With God the Father ever One,

Co-equal, co-eternal Son.

Thy hand, when first the world began,

Made in thine own pure image man,

And linked to fleshly form of earth

A living soul of heavenly birth.

And when the envious crafty foe

Had marred thy noblest work below,

Thou didst our ruined state repair

By deigning flesh thyself to wear.

Once of a virgin born to save,
And now new born from death's dark grave,
O Christ, thou bidd'st us rise with thee
From death to immortality.

Eternal Shepherd, thou art wont
To cleanse Thy sheep within the font,
That mystic bath, that grave of sin,
Where ransomed souls new life begin.

Divine Redeemer, thou didst deign
To bear for us the cross of pain,
And freely pay the precious price
Of all thy blood in sacrifice.

Jesu, do thou to every heart
Unceasing Paschal joy impart;
From death of sin and guilty strife
Set free the new born sons of life.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 124 (125)
The Lord guards his people

“Peace to the Israel of God” (Gal 6:16).

Peace be with you, it is I: do not be afraid. Alleluia.

Those who put their trust in the Lord
are like Mount Sion, that cannot be shaken,
that stands for ever.

Jerusalem! The mountains surround her,
so the Lord surrounds his people
both now and for ever.

For the sceptre of the wicked shall not rest
over the land of the just
for fear that the hands of the just
should turn to evil.

Do good, Lord, to those who are good,
to the upright of heart;
but the crooked and those who do evil,
drive them away!
On Israel, peace!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Peace be with you, it is I: do not be afraid. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Surround your people, Lord, within the safety of your Church, which you preserve on her rock foundation. Do not let us stretch out our hands to evil deeds, nor be destroyed by the insidious snares of the enemy, but bring us to share the lot of the saints in light.

Psalm 130 (131) Childlike trust in God

“Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart” (Mt 11:29).

O Israel, hope in the Lord. Alleluia.

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me.

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul.

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

O Israel, hope in the Lord. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, you declared that whoever receives a little child in your name receives you, and you promised your kingdom to those who are like children. Never let pride reign in our hearts, but may the Father's compassion reward and embrace all who willingly bear your gentle yoke.

Canticle

Apocalypse 4,5

The song of the redeemed

May your whole creation serve you, for you spoke and they came into being. Alleluia.

Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,

for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.

Worthy are you, O Lord,
to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed men for God
from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

You have made us a kingdom and priests to our God,
and we shall reign on earth.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might
and honour and glory and blessing.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*May your whole creation serve you, for you spoke and they came into
being. Alleluia.*

Short Reading

1 Peter 2:4-5

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.

Short Responsory

The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.
– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*
They saw the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

The bread of God is that which came down from heaven and gives life to the world. Alleluia.

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

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

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.
Amen.

The bread of God is that which came down from heaven and gives life to the world. Alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Rejoicing, let us pray to Christ who was buried in the heart of the earth to
awake in the light of glory.

– *King of glory, hear us.*

We pray for bishops, priests and deacons: may they be dedicated to their
ministry;
grant that they may present to you a people ready for every kind of good
work.

– *King of glory, hear us.*

We pray for those who serve the Church as teachers of the faith:
may they always seek your truth with sincerity of heart.

– *King of glory, hear us.*

We pray for all the faithful: may they run the great race, finish the course;
let them receive the crown of victory in the kingdom of heaven.

– *King of glory, hear us.*

Lord, you cancelled on the cross our sentence of damnation;
free us from the darkness of our sins.

– *King of glory, hear us.*

You descended into hell and opened wide its gates;
receive the faithful departed into your Father's house.

– *King of glory, hear us.*

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.

God our Father,
you open the gates of the kingdom of heaven
to those who are born again of water and the Holy Spirit
Increase the grace you have given,
so that the people you have purified from all sin
may not forfeit the promised blessings of your love.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr

see also [Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

see also [Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest](#)

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

All hail the power of Jesus' name;

Let Angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem

To crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye Martyrs of your God,

Who from his altar call;

Praise him whose way of pain ye trod,

And crown him Lord of all.

Hail him, ye heirs of David's line,

Whom David Lord did call;

The God Incarnate, Man Divine,

And crown him Lord of all.

Let every tribe and every tongue
To him their hearts enthrall,
Lift high the universal song,
And crown him Lord of all.

Psalm 124 (125)
The Lord guards his people

“Peace to the Israel of God” (Gal 6:16).

Peace be with you, it is I: do not be afraid. Alleluia.

Those who put their trust in the Lord
are like Mount Sion, that cannot be shaken,
that stands for ever.

Jerusalem! The mountains surround her,
so the Lord surrounds his people
both now and for ever.

For the sceptre of the wicked shall not rest
over the land of the just
for fear that the hands of the just
should turn to evil.

Do good, Lord, to those who are good,
to the upright of heart;
but the crooked and those who do evil,
drive them away!
On Israel, peace!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Peace be with you, it is I: do not be afraid. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Surround your people, Lord, within the safety of your Church, which you preserve on her rock foundation. Do not let us stretch out our hands to evil deeds, nor be destroyed by the insidious snares of the enemy, but bring us to share the lot of the saints in light.

Psalm 130 (131) Childlike trust in God

“Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart” (Mt 11:29).

O Israel, hope in the Lord. Alleluia.

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me.

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul.

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

O Israel, hope in the Lord. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, you declared that whoever receives a little child in your name receives you, and you promised your kingdom to those who are like children. Never let pride reign in our hearts, but may the Father's compassion reward and embrace all who willingly bear your gentle yoke.

Canticle

Apocalypse 4,5

The song of the redeemed

May your whole creation serve you, for you spoke and they came into being. Alleluia.

Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.

Worthy are you, O Lord,
to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed men for God
from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

You have made us a kingdom and priests to our God,
and we shall reign on earth.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might
and honour and glory and blessing.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.
Amen.

May your whole creation serve you, for you spoke and they came into being. Alleluia.

Short Reading

Apocalypse 7:14-17

These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Short Responsory

You have tested us, God, and you have brought us out into freedom again.
Alleluia, alleluia.

– *You have tested us, God, and you have brought us out into freedom again.*
Alleluia, alleluia.

You have refined us like silver.

– *You have tested us, God, and you have brought us out into freedom again.*
Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *You have tested us, God, and you have brought us out into freedom again.*
Alleluia, alleluia.

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

*Unless the wheat grain falls on the earth and dies, it remains itself alone;
but if it dies it yields much fruit, alleluia.*

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

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

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Unless the wheat grain falls on the earth and dies, it remains itself alone;
but if it dies it yields much fruit, alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

Let us give thanks to the king of martyrs, for this is the hour when he
offered himself in the last supper and laid down his life on the cross.
– *We praise you, Christ the Lord.*

We praise you, Christ our Saviour, example and strength of the martyrs,
because you have loved us to the end;
– *We praise you, Christ the Lord.*

Because you have promised repentant sinners the reward of eternal life,
– *We praise you, Christ the Lord.*

Because you have called the Church to offer the blood of the new and
eternal covenant, the blood shed for the remission of sins,
– *We praise you, Christ the Lord.*

Because you have brought us to this day with the gift of faith intact,
– *We praise you, Christ the Lord.*

Because of the many brothers who today have come to share in your saving
death,
– *We praise you, Christ the Lord.*

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.

Lord God, you made the martyrdom of Saint Peter Chanel
serve the growth of your Church.
Give us grace, in these days of Easter joy,
so to celebrate the mysteries of Christ's death and resurrection
that we may give witness of newness of life.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest

see also [Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

see also [Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr](#)

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Who are these like stars appearing,
these, before God's throne who stand?

Each a golden crown is wearing;

who are all this glorious band?

Alleluia! Hark, they sing,

praising loud their heavenly King.

Who are these of dazzling brightness,
clothed in God's own righteousness?

These, whose robes of purest whiteness,

shall their lustre still possess,

still untouched by time's rude hand?

Whence came all this glorious band?

These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on till life was ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.

These are they whose hearts were riven,
sore with woe and anguish tried,
who in prayer full oft have striven
with the God they glorified;
now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.

These, the Almighty contemplating,
did as priests before him stand,
soul and body always waiting
day and night at his command:
now in God's most holy place
blest they stand before his face.

Psalm 124 (125)
The Lord guards his people

“Peace to the Israel of God” (Gal 6:16).

Peace be with you, it is I: do not be afraid. Alleluia.

Those who put their trust in the Lord
are like Mount Sion, that cannot be shaken,
that stands for ever.

Jerusalem! The mountains surround her,
so the Lord surrounds his people
both now and for ever.

For the sceptre of the wicked shall not rest
over the land of the just

for fear that the hands of the just
should turn to evil.

Do good, Lord, to those who are good,
to the upright of heart;
but the crooked and those who do evil,
drive them away!
On Israel, peace!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Peace be with you, it is I: do not be afraid. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Surround your people, Lord, within the safety of your Church, which you preserve on her rock foundation. Do not let us stretch out our hands to evil deeds, nor be destroyed by the insidious snares of the enemy, but bring us to share the lot of the saints in light.

Psalm 130 (131) Childlike trust in God

“Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart” (Mt 11:29).

O Israel, hope in the Lord. Alleluia.

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me.

Truly I have set my soul

in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul.

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

O Israel, hope in the Lord. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, you declared that whoever receives a little child in your name receives you, and you promised your kingdom to those who are like children. Never let pride reign in our hearts, but may the Father's compassion reward and embrace all who willingly bear your gentle yoke.

Canticle

Apocalypse 4,5

The song of the redeemed

May your whole creation serve you, for you spoke and they came into being. Alleluia.

Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.

Worthy are you, O Lord,
to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slain,

and by your blood you ransomed men for God
from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

You have made us a kingdom and priests to our God,
and we shall reign on earth.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might
and honour and glory and blessing.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*May your whole creation serve you, for you spoke and they came into
being. Alleluia.*

Short Reading

1 Peter 5:1-4

Now I have something to tell your elders: I am an elder myself, and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and with you I have a share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be the shepherds of the flock of God that is entrusted to you: watch over it, not simply as a duty but gladly, because God wants it; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

Short Responsory

This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people. Alleluia,
alleluia.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.
Alleluia, alleluia.*

He laid down his life for his brothers.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

I made myself all things to all men in order to save them all. Alleluia.

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

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

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

I made myself all things to all men in order to save them all. Alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to Christ, the high priest, who was appointed to represent men
in their relations with God.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Lord Jesus, in times past you have lighted the way for your people through
wise and holy leaders;

may Christians always enjoy this sign of your loving kindness.

– *Lord, save your people.*

You forgave the sins of your people when holy pastors prayed;
continually cleanse your Church through their powerful intercession.

– *Lord, save your people.*

In the presence of their brothers, you anointed your holy ones and poured
on them your Spirit;

fill with your Holy Spirit all the leaders of your people.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Nothing could ever separate the holy pastors from your love;

do not lose even one of those whom you redeemed by your passion.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Through the pastors of your Church you give your sheep eternal life, and no
one can steal them from you;

save the faithful departed, for whom you laid down your life.

– *Lord, save your people.*

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.

Father, you made your Church grow
through the Christian zeal and apostolic work
of Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort.
By the help of his prayers
give your Church continued growth in holiness and faith.
Grant this 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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
or Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr
or Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest

Compline (Night Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Examination of Conscience

This is an excellent moment for an examination of conscience. In a communal celebration of Compline, one of the penitential acts given in the Missal may be recited.

Hymn

Jesu, the world's redeeming Lord,
The Father's co-eternal Word,
Of light invisible true Light,
Thine Israel's Keeper day and night.

Our great Creator and our Guide,
Who times and seasons dost divide,
Refresh at night with quiet rest,

Our limbs by daily toil oppressed.

We pray thee, while we dwell below,
Preserve us from our ghostly foe;
Nor let his wiles victorious be
O'er them that are redeemed by thee.

That while in this frail house of clay
A little longer here we stay,
Our flesh in thee may sweetly sleep,
Our souls with thee their vigils keep.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be,
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 142 (143)
A prayer in time of trouble

“A man is made righteous not by obedience to the Law, but by faith in
Jesus Christ” (Gal 2:16).

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Lord, listen to my prayer:
 turn your ear to my appeal.
 You are faithful, you are just; give answer.
Do not call your servant to judgement
 for no one is just in your sight.

The enemy pursues my soul;
 he has crushed my life to the ground;
he has made me dwell in darkness
 like the dead, long forgotten.
Therefore my spirit fails;
 my heart is numb within me.

I remember the days that are past:
I ponder all your works.
I muse on what your hand has wrought
and to you I stretch out my hands.
Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you.

Lord, make haste and answer;
for my spirit fails within me.
Do not hide your face
lest I become like those in the grave.

In the morning let me know your love
for I put my trust in you.
Make me know the way I should walk:
to you I lift up my soul.

Rescue me, Lord, from my enemies;
I have fled to you for refuge.
Teach me to do your will
for you, O Lord, are my God.
Let your good spirit guide me
in ways that are level and smooth.

For your name's sake, Lord, save my life;
in your justice save my soul from distress.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus, early in the morning of your resurrection, you made your love known and brought the first light of dawn to those who dwell in darkness.

Your death has opened a path for us. Do not enter into judgement with your servants; let your Holy Spirit guide us together into the land of justice.

Short Reading

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be calm but vigilant, because your enemy the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, looking for someone to eat. Stand up to him, strong in faith.

Short Responsory

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.

At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.
Amen.

*Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may
keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.*

Let us pray.

In your mercy, Lord,
dispel the darkness of this night.
Let your household so sleep in peace
that at the dawn of a new day
they may, with joy, waken in your name.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Amen.

Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!
has risen as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!

Regína cæli, lætare, allelúia,
quia quem meruísti portáre, allelúia,
resurréxit sicut dixit, allelúia;
ora pro nobis Deum, allelúia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr](#)

see also [Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest](#)

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Rv 19: 5; 12: 10

Sing praise to our God,
all you who fear God, both small and great,
for now salvation and strength have come,
and the power of his Christ, alleluia.

Collect

O God, who open wide the gates of the heavenly Kingdom
to those reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
pour out on your servants
an increase of the grace you have bestowed,
that, having been purged of all sins,
they may lack nothing
that in your kindness you have promised.
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.

First reading

Acts 7:51-8:1

'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit'

Stephen said to the people, the elders and the scribes: 'You stubborn people, with your pagan hearts and pagan ears. You are always resisting the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Can you name a single prophet your ancestors never persecuted? In the past they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, and now you have become his betrayers, his murderers. You who had the Law brought to you by angels are the very ones who have not kept it.'

They were infuriated when they heard this, and ground their teeth at him.

But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. 'I can see heaven thrown open' he said 'and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' At this all the members of the council shouted out and stopped their ears with their hands; then they all rushed at him, sent him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses put down their clothes at the feet of a young man called Saul. As they were stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and said aloud, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'; and with these words he fell asleep. Saul entirely approved of the killing.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 30(31):3-4,6,8,17,21

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Into your hands I commend my spirit.
It is you who will redeem me, Lord.
As for me, I trust in the Lord:
let me be glad and rejoice in your love.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your love.
You hide them in the shelter of your presence
from the plotting of men.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

Jn10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

Or:

Jn6:35

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the bread of life, says the Lord.
He who comes to me will never be hungry;
he who believes in me will never thirst.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:30-35

It is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven

The people said to Jesus, ‘What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*’

Jesus answered:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven,
it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven,
the true bread;
for the bread of God
is that which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.’

‘Sir,’ they said ‘give us that bread always.’ Jesus answered:

‘I am the bread of life.
He who comes to me will never be hungry;
he who believes in me will never thirst.’

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
these offerings of your exultant Church,
and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness,
grant also that the gifts we bring
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Rm 6: 8

If we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with Christ, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord,
and grant, we pray,
that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries

may attain in their flesh
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr

see also [Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

see also [Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest](#)

Liturgical Colour: Red.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Phil 2: 30

This Saint went as far as death,
handing over his life to destruction
for the work of Christ, alleluia.

Collect

O God, who for the spreading of your Church
crowned Saint Peter Chanel with martyrdom,
grant that, in these days of paschal joy,
we may so celebrate the mysteries of Christ's Death and Resurrection
as to bear worthy witness to newness of life.
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.

[Readings for the feria](#)

[Readings for the memorial](#)

These are the readings for the feria

'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit'

Stephen said to the people, the elders and the scribes: 'You stubborn people, with your pagan hearts and pagan ears. You are always resisting the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Can you name a single prophet your ancestors never persecuted? In the past they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, and now you have become his betrayers, his murderers. You who had the Law brought to you by angels are the very ones who have not kept it.'

They were infuriated when they heard this, and ground their teeth at him.

But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. 'I can see heaven thrown open' he said 'and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' At this all the members of the council shouted out and stopped their ears with their hands; then they all rushed at him, sent him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses put down their clothes at the feet of a young man called Saul. As they were stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and said aloud, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'; and with these words he fell asleep. Saul entirely approved of the killing.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 30(31):3-4,6,8,17,21

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

It is you who will redeem me, Lord.

As for me, I trust in the Lord:

let me be glad and rejoice in your love.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your love.

You hide them in the shelter of your presence

from the plotting of men.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

Jn10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia!

Or:

Jn6:35

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the bread of life, says the Lord.

He who comes to me will never be hungry;

he who believes in me will never thirst.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:30-35

It is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven

The people said to Jesus, ‘What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*’

Jesus answered:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven,
it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven,
the true bread;
for the bread of God
is that which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.’

‘Sir,’ they said ‘give us that bread always.’ Jesus answered:

‘I am the bread of life.
He who comes to me will never be hungry;
he who believes in me will never thirst.’

[Continue](#)

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

We preach a crucified Christ, the power and wisdom of God

The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God’s power to save. As scripture says: *I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing all the learning of the learned. Where are the philosophers now? Where are the scribes? Where are any of our*

thinkers today? Do you see now how God has shown up the foolishness of human wisdom? If it was God's wisdom that human wisdom should not know God, it was because God wanted to save those who have faith through the foolishness of the message that we preach. And so, while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 116(117):1-2

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

or

Alleluia!

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

or

Alleluia!

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever.

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

or

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

Mk1:17

Alleluia, alleluia!
Follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you into fishers of men.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

I will make you into fishers of men

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.’

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.’ And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

[Continue](#)

Prayer over the Offerings

As we commemorate the martyrdom of blessed **N.**, O Lord,
we make our offerings at your altar,
praying that we, who celebrate the mysteries of our Lord’s Passion,
may imitate what we now do.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Mk 8: 35

Whoever loses his life for the sake of the Gospel
will save it, says the Lord, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

As we celebrate the heavenly banquet,
we beseech you, Lord,
that, in following such a great example of faith,
we may be encouraged by the remembrance of the blessed Martyr **N.**
and led on by his (her) gracious intercession.
Through Christ our Lord.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest

see also [Tuesday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

see also [Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr](#)

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Ps15:5-6

The Lord is my inheritance and my cup; he alone will give me my reward.
The measuring line has marked a lovely place for me; my
inheritance is my great delight.

Collect

O God, who willed to direct the steps of the Priest Saint Louis
along the way of salvation and of the love of Christ,
in the company of the Blessed Virgin,
grant us, by his example,
that, meditating on the mysteries of your love,
we may strive tirelessly for the building up of your Church.
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.

[Readings for the feria](#)

[Readings for the memorial](#)

These are the readings for the feria

'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit'

Stephen said to the people, the elders and the scribes: 'You stubborn people, with your pagan hearts and pagan ears. You are always resisting the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Can you name a single prophet your ancestors never persecuted? In the past they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, and now you have become his betrayers, his murderers. You who had the Law brought to you by angels are the very ones who have not kept it.'

They were infuriated when they heard this, and ground their teeth at him.

But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. 'I can see heaven thrown open' he said 'and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' At this all the members of the council shouted out and stopped their ears with their hands; then they all rushed at him, sent him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses put down their clothes at the feet of a young man called Saul. As they were stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and said aloud, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'; and with these words he fell asleep. Saul entirely approved of the killing.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 30(31):3-4,6,8,17,21

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

It is you who will redeem me, Lord.

As for me, I trust in the Lord:

let me be glad and rejoice in your love.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your love.

You hide them in the shelter of your presence

from the plotting of men.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

or

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

Jn10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia!

Or:

Jn6:35

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the bread of life, says the Lord.

He who comes to me will never be hungry;

he who believes in me will never thirst.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:30-35

It is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven

The people said to Jesus, ‘What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*’

Jesus answered:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven,
it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven,
the true bread;
for the bread of God
is that which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.’

‘Sir,’ they said ‘give us that bread always.’ Jesus answered:

‘I am the bread of life.
He who comes to me will never be hungry;
he who believes in me will never thirst.’

[Continue](#)

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

We preach a crucified Christ, the power and wisdom of God

The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God’s power to save. As scripture says: *I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing all the learning of the learned. Where are the philosophers now? Where are the scribes? Where are any of our*

thinkers today? Do you see now how God has shown up the foolishness of human wisdom? If it was God's wisdom that human wisdom should not know God, it was because God wanted to save those who have faith through the foolishness of the message that we preach. And so, while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 39(40):2,4,7-10

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk4:17

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

Go and make disciples of all nations

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

[Continue](#)

Prayer over the Offerings

God of all mercy,
you transformed Saint Louis
and made him a new creature

in your image.
Renew us in the same way
by making our gifts of peace acceptable to you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

cf.Mt 19:27-29

I solemnly tell you: those who have left everything and followed me will be repaid a hundredfold and will gain eternal life.

Prayer after Communion

All-powerful God,
may we who are strengthened by the power of this sacrament
learn from the example of Saint Louis to seek you above all things
and to live in this world as your new creation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Wednesday 29 April 2020

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor – *Feast*

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Wednesday 29 April 2020

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor – Feast

Lectio Divina

Introduction

Make whatever preparations you need to leave the shadow world behind and encounter the fire of the Spirit and the light of God.

If you have chosen a specific bodily position, adopt it. If you have chosen to prepare the space and the place in some way (perhaps drawing a curtain or lighting a candle), make that preparation.

Eliminate distractions and the possibility of interruption.

Sign of the Cross

We invoke God, in whose name we act and to whom we are about to open ourselves.

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

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

We invoke the Holy Spirit, who will speak to us and listen in us.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Act of Contrition

By acknowledging our sinfulness and admitting that by ourselves we can do nothing that is not flawed, we ask God to take the initiative in this encounter.

Have mercy on us, O Lord:
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy:
And grant us your salvation.

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

Amen.

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Gospel should be read slowly, meditatively, with pauses between sentences or whenever the sense requires it. The aim is not to tell the text to God, who knows it already, but to let God tell it to us. For this, there have to be silences so that what God is telling us can be heard.

When a group is doing Lectio Divina, it is usually best to take turns in reading the words of the Gospel, since for many people speaking will bring the words to mind better than hearing does. But do not let this become a distraction in itself: have a clear order known in advance, and a simple signal for handing over the baton from one person to the next.

Matthew 11:25-30

You have hidden these things from the wise and revealed them to little children

Jesus exclaimed, ‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.’

The Response

Meditatio (reflection)

What does the Gospel say to me?

God has willed me to be here, now, today, for a reason. Now is the time to reflect, and find that reason, and hear what God has chosen to tell me.

A good pattern is this:

- What has drawn my attention or struck me in some way?*
- Why? Was it a person? A word? A situation? A gesture?*
- What, therefore, is God saying to me through these words, here and now, today?*

The “I” and the “me” are important. To say “we” or “us” is to evade the encounter by softening the focus and hiding behind membership of a group. The meeting with Jesus is face to face, one to one.

The shared echo

When several people are doing Lectio together, especially if they do so regularly, then there is the opportunity for each person to share the words that have had the most impact in today’s passage, or the message it has conveyed.

There is no obligation to share an echo, and some members may take many meetings before sharing one, or may even never do so.

An echo is what struck me – not “you” or “us”. It is not a mini-sermon or a carefully crafted uplifting thought. Echoes do not have echoes. The sharing of echoes and the listening to echoes are not a discussion aiming at a conclusion, but the opening of one heart to another.

The experience of sharing echoes brings the group closer together. Over time, its power grows.

Oratio (prayer)

God has spoken to me. What do I reply?

Silently, each of us responds to what God has said to him through the passage we have read and even through the echoes we have heard.

As a matter of human practicality, one person should be responsible for deciding the time taken for silent prayer. Even better, a timer or hourglass can be used. Otherwise “Are we nearly there

yet?” can be a potent distraction.

Contemplatio (contemplation)

Sometimes we may be led beyond prayer into a quiet and attentive resting in the presence of God.

Conclusion

We prepare to return to the everyday world, carrying with us what we have received in our minds and our hearts today.

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.

May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Wednesday 29 April 2020

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor – *Feast*

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.
And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 94 (95)

“Every day, as long as this ‘today’ lasts, keep encouraging one another” (Heb 3:13).

The Lord is the king of virgins: come, let us adore him, alleluia.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the God who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

A mighty God is the Lord,
a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.
To him belongs the sea, for he made it
and the dry land shaped by his hands.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.

For forty years I was wearied of these people
and I said: “Their hearts are astray,
these people do not know my ways.”

Then I took an oath in my anger:
“Never shall they enter my rest.””

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord is the king of virgins: come, let us adore him, alleluia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Wednesday 29 April 2020

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor – *Feast*

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

All hail the power of Jesus' name;

Let Angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem

To crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye Martyrs of your God,

Who from his altar call;

Praise him whose way of pain ye trod,

And crown him Lord of all.

Hail him, ye heirs of David's line,

Whom David Lord did call;

The God Incarnate, Man Divine,

And crown him Lord of all.

Let every tribe and every tongue
To him their hearts enthral,
Lift high the universal song,
And crown him Lord of all.

Psalm 62 (63)
Thirsting for God

“Let the man who has put away the deeds of the night watch for God.”

I will bear witness to Christ; it is Christ that I seek; with Christ I desire to be united, alleluia.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*I will bear witness to Christ; it is Christ that I seek; with Christ I desire to
be united, alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Father, creator of unfailing light, give that same light to those who call to you. May our lips praise you; our lives proclaim your goodness; our work give you honour, and our voices celebrate you for ever.

Or:

This morning, Lord, we lift up our hands to praise you. We thirst for you; we long for you. Help us to love you more than life itself and fill us with good gifts from your banquet table.

Canticle

Daniel 3:57-88,56

All creatures, bless the Lord

“Praise our God, all you his servants” (Rev 19:5).

*Virgins, bless the Lord; he who planted his wisdom in you now crowns the
fruit that you have borne, alleluia.*

O all you works of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, angels of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, the heavens of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, clouds of the sky, O bless the Lord.
And you, all armies of the Lord, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, sun and moon, O bless the Lord.

And you, the stars of the heavens, O bless the Lord.

And you, showers and rain, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, all you breezes and winds, O bless the Lord.

And you, fire and heat, O bless the Lord.

And you, cold and heat, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, showers and dew, O bless the Lord.

And you, frosts and cold, O bless the Lord.

And you, frost and snow, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, night-time and day, O bless the Lord.

And you, darkness and light, O bless the Lord.

And you, lightning and clouds, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

O let the earth bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, mountains and hills, O bless the Lord.

And you, all plants of the earth, O bless the Lord.

And you, fountains and springs, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, rivers and seas, O bless the Lord.

And you, creatures of the sea, O bless the Lord.

And you, every bird in the sky, O bless the Lord.

And you, wild beasts and tame, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, children of men, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

O Israel, bless the Lord, O bless the Lord.

And you, priests of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, servants of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, spirits and souls of the just, O bless the Lord.
And you, holy and humble of heart, O bless the Lord.
Ananias, Azarias, Mizael, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

Let us praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit:
To you be highest glory and praise for ever.
May you be blessed, O Lord, in the heavens:
To you be highest glory and praise for ever.

*Virgins, bless the Lord; he who planted his wisdom in you now crowns the
fruit that you have borne, alleluia.*

Psalm 149 **The saints rejoice**

*“The members of the Church, God’s new people, will rejoice in their
king, who is Christ” (Hesychius).*

*The saints will rejoice in glory; their victory shines forth in their bodies,
alleluia.*

Sing a new song to the Lord,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,
let Sion’s sons exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing
and make music with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people.
He crowns the poor with salvation.
Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips

and a two-edged sword in their hand,
to deal out vengeance to the nations
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains
and their nobles in fetters of iron;
to carry out the sentence pre-ordained:
this honour is for all his faithful.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*The saints will rejoice in glory; their victory shines forth in their bodies,
alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Let Israel rejoice in you, Lord, and acknowledge you as creator and redeemer. We put our trust in your faithfulness and proclaim the wonderful truths of salvation. May your loving kindness embrace us now and for ever.

Or:

Lord Jesus, you came to your own people and gave to all who welcomed you power to become children of God. In your merciful love watch over the Church and through her ministry bring salvation to the meek and lowly. May we avoid the snares of the impious, and come to rejoice in glory with your saints.

Short Reading

Song of Songs 8:7

Love is something that no flood can quench, no torrents drown. Were a man to offer all the wealth of his house to buy love, contempt is all he would purchase.

Short Responsory

My heart has said of you: I have sought your presence, Lord. Alleluia,
alleluia.

– *My heart has said of you: I have sought your presence, Lord. Alleluia,
alleluia.*

It is your face that I will continue to seek.

– *My heart has said of you: I have sought your presence, Lord. Alleluia,
alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *My heart has said of you: I have sought your presence, Lord. Alleluia,
alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

*The holy virgin, Saint Catherine, never ceased praying to God to let peace
return to his holy Church, alleluia.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*The holy virgin, Saint Catherine, never ceased praying to God to let peace
return to his holy Church, alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

With great joy let us praise Christ, the bridegroom of all virgins.
– *Jesus, crown of virgins, hear us.*

Lord Jesus, the holy virgins loved you as their only spouse;
may we never be separated from you.
– *Jesus, crown of virgins, hear us.*

You crowned your mother Mary as queen of all virgins;
by her prayers grant that we may serve you in purity of life.
– *Jesus, crown of virgins, hear us.*

The holy virgins followed you with undivided hearts;

do not allow us to be fascinated by this passing world and drawn away
from you.

– *Jesus, crown of virgins, hear us.*

Lord Jesus, you are the bridegroom that the wise virgins were ready to
meet;

let us watch for your coming with longing and hope.

– *Jesus, crown of virgins, hear us.*

May Saint **N.**, who reigns in your kingdom, intercede for us;
through her prayers grant us wisdom and innocence of life.

– *Jesus, crown of virgins, hear us.*

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.

Almighty God, you made Saint Catherine of Siena
a contemplative lover of the Lord's sufferings
and an ardent servant of your church.

Grant through her prayer

that your people may be united to Christ in his mystery,

and rejoice for ever in the revelation of his glory.

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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Wednesday 29 April 2020

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor – *Feast*

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

All hail the power of Jesus' name;

Let Angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem

To crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye Martyrs of your God,

Who from his altar call;

Praise him whose way of pain ye trod,

And crown him Lord of all.

Hail him, ye heirs of David's line,

Whom David Lord did call;

The God Incarnate, Man Divine,

And crown him Lord of all.

Let every tribe and every tongue
To him their hearts enthrall,
Lift high the universal song,
And crown him Lord of all.

Psalm 121 (122)
Jerusalem, the holy city

“You have come to Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (Heb 12:22).

I will keep myself chaste for you. I will meet you, the bridegroom, carrying a brightly shining lamp, alleluia.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
‘Let us go to God’s house.’
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel’s law it is,
there to praise the Lord’s name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
‘Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!’

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: ‘Peace upon you!’
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*I will keep myself chaste for you. I will meet you, the bridegroom, carrying
a brightly shining lamp, alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

When you rose from the dead, Lord Jesus, you formed the Church into your new body and made of her the new Jerusalem, united in your Spirit. Give us peace in our day. Make all nations come to your Church to share your gifts in fellowship, that they may render you thanks without end and come to your eternal city.

Psalm 126 (127)

Without the Lord, we labour in vain

“You are God’s building” (1 Cor 3:9).

Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God, alleluia.

If the Lord does not build the house,
in vain do its builders labour;
if the Lord does not watch over the city,
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

In vain is your earlier rising,
your going later to rest,
you who toil for the bread you eat,
when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Truly sons are a gift from the Lord,
a blessing, the fruit of the womb.
Indeed the sons of youth

are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

O the happiness of the man
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
He will have no cause for shame
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God, alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

You command the seed to rise, Lord God, though the farmer is unaware.
Grant that those who labour for you may trust not in their own work but in
your help. Remembering that the land is brought to flower not with human
tears but with those of your Son, may the Church rely only upon your gifts.

Canticle

Ephesians 1

God the Saviour

*My firm hope will not be moved; it is based on Christ like a house on a
rock, alleluia.*

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy
and blameless before him.

He destined us in love
to be his sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,
to the praise of his glorious grace
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace
which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us
in all wisdom and insight
the mystery of his will,
according to his purpose
which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ
as a plan for the fullness of time,
to unite all things in him,
things in heaven and things on earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*My firm hope will not be moved; it is based on Christ like a house on a
rock, alleluia.*

Short Reading

1 Corinthians 7:32,34

An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord. In the same way an unmarried woman,

like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit.

Short Responsory

The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy. Alleluia, alleluia.
– *The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy. Alleluia, alleluia.*
They are led into the temple of the king.
– *The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy. Alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

At all times and in all places, Catherine sought God. She found him and was united to him in love, alleluia.

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

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

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,

remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*At all times and in all places, Catherine sought God. She found him and
was united to him in love, alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

Christ the Lord praised those who follow the way of virginity for the sake
of the kingdom of heaven. Let us proclaim his love and pray:

– *Jesus, king of virgins, hear us.*

Christ our Lord, you presented the Church to yourself, as a chaste virgin to
her only husband;

make her pure, holy and faultless.

– *Jesus, king of virgins, hear us.*

Christ Jesus, the holy virgins went to meet you with lamps burning bright;
keep alive the flame of fidelity in the hearts of religious women.

– *Jesus, king of virgins, hear us.*

Lord, you have always preserved your Church in purity and soundness of
faith;

grant to all Christians a faith that is true and complete.

– *Jesus, king of virgins, hear us.*

You bring joy to the lives of your faithful as they celebrate the feast of your
holy virgin **N.**;

may they also rejoice in her constant intercession.

– *Jesus, king of virgins, hear us.*

You have welcomed your holy virgins to the wedding feast of heaven;
invite all the dead to the feast of eternal life.
– *Jesus, king of virgins, hear us.*

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.

Almighty God, you made Saint Catherine of Siena
a contemplative lover of the Lord's sufferings
and an ardent servant of your church.
Grant through her prayer
that your people may be united to Christ in his mystery,
and rejoice for ever in the revelation of his glory.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Wednesday 29 April 2020

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor – *Feast*

Compline (Night Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Examination of Conscience

This is an excellent moment for an examination of conscience. In a communal celebration of Compline, one of the penitential acts given in the Missal may be recited.

Hymn

Jesu, the world's redeeming Lord,
The Father's co-eternal Word,
Of light invisible true Light,
Thine Israel's Keeper day and night.

Our great Creator and our Guide,
Who times and seasons dost divide,
Refresh at night with quiet rest,
Our limbs by daily toil oppressed.

We pray thee, while we dwell below,
Preserve us from our ghostly foe;
Nor let his wiles victorious be
O'er them that are redeemed by thee.

That while in this frail house of clay
A little longer here we stay,
Our flesh in thee may sweetly sleep,
Our souls with thee their vigils keep.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be,
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 30 (31)
Trustful prayer in time of adversity

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” (Lk 23:46).

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge.
Let me never be put to shame.
In your justice, set me free,
hear me and speedily rescue me.

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me.

Release me from the snares they have hidden
for you are my refuge, Lord.
Into your hands I commend my spirit.
It is you who will redeem me, Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

Psalm 129 (130)
Out of the depths

“He will save his people from their sins” (Mt 1:21).

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.
Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Listen with compassion to our prayers, Lord. The forgiveness of sins is yours. Do not look on the wrong we have done, but grant us your merciful kindness.

Or:

God of might and compassion, you sent your Word into the world, a watchman to announce to men the dawn of salvation. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins but listen to your Church pleading with you. Respond to her trust, and pour out in her the fullness of your redeeming grace.

Short Reading

Ephesians 4:26-27

Do not let resentment lead you into sin; the sunset must not find you still angry. Do not give the devil his opportunity.

Short Responsory

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.

At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,
meek and humble of heart,
you offer to those who follow you
a yoke that is good to bear,
a burden that is light.

Accept, we beg you, our prayer and work of this day,
and grant us the rest we need
that we may be ever more willing to serve you,
who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!
has risen as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!

Regína cæli, lætare, allelúia,
quia quem meruísti portáre, allelúia,
resurrexit sicut dixit, allelúia;
ora pro nobis Deum, allelúia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Wednesday 29 April 2020

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor – Feast

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Here is a wise virgin, from among the number of the prudent,
who went forth with lighted lamp to meet Christ, alleluia.

Collect

O God, who set Saint Catherine of Siena on fire with divine love
in her contemplation of the Lord's Passion
and her service of your Church,
grant, through her intercession,
that your people,
participating in the mystery of Christ,
may ever exult in the revelation of his glory.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

First reading

1 John 1:5-2:2

The blood of Jesus Christ purifies us all from sin

This is what we have heard from Jesus Christ,
and the message that we are announcing to you:
God is light; there is no darkness in him at all.
If we say that we are in union with God

while we are living in darkness,
we are lying because we are not living the truth.
But if we live our lives in the light,
as he is in the light,
we are in union with one another,
and the blood of Jesus, his Son,
purifies us from all sin.

If we say we have no sin in us,
we are deceiving ourselves
and refusing to admit the truth;
but if we acknowledge our sins,
then God who is faithful and just
will forgive our sins and purify us
from everything that is wrong.
To say that we have never sinned
is to call God a liar
and to show that his word is not in us.

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,
but the whole world's.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102(103):1-4,8-9,13-14,17-18

My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
 who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
 who crowns you with love and compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

The Lord is compassion and love,
 slow to anger and rich in mercy.
His wrath will come to an end;
 he will not be angry for ever.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

As a father has compassion on his sons,
 the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for he knows of what we are made,
 he remembers that we are dust.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

But the love of the Lord is everlasting
 upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children
 when they keep his covenant in truth,
 when they keep his will in their mind.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

You have hidden these things from the wise and revealed them to little children

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the saving sacrifice we offer
in commemoration of Saint Catherine,
so that, instructed by her teaching,
we may give ever more fervent thanks
to you, the one true God.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. 1 Jn 1: 7

If we walk in the light, as God is in the light,
then we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ
cleanses us from all sin, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

May the heavenly table

at which we have been fed, O Lord,
confer eternal life upon us,
as even in this world
it nourished the life of Saint Catherine.
Through Christ our Lord.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
see also [Saint Pius V, Pope](#)

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Saint Pius V, Pope

see also [Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
or Saint Pius V, Pope

Lectio Divina

Introduction

Make whatever preparations you need to leave the shadow world behind and encounter the fire of the Spirit and the light of God.

If you have chosen a specific bodily position, adopt it. If you have chosen to prepare the space and the place in some way (perhaps drawing a curtain or lighting a candle), make that preparation.

Eliminate distractions and the possibility of interruption.

Sign of the Cross

We invoke God, in whose name we act and to whom we are about to open ourselves.

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

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

We invoke the Holy Spirit, who will speak to us and listen in us.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Act of Contrition

By acknowledging our sinfulness and admitting that by ourselves we can do nothing that is not flawed, we ask God to take the initiative in this encounter.

Have mercy on us, O Lord:
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy:
And grant us your salvation.

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

Amen.

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The Gospel should be read slowly, meditatively, with pauses between sentences or whenever the sense requires it. The aim is not to tell the text to God, who knows it already, but to let God tell it to us. For this, there have to be silences so that what God is telling us can be heard.

When a group is doing Lectio Divina, it is usually best to take turns in reading the words of the Gospel, since for many people speaking will bring the words to mind better than hearing does. But do not let this become a distraction in itself: have a clear order known in advance, and a simple signal for handing over the baton from one person to the next.

John 6:44-51

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘No one can come to me
unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me,
and I will raise him up at the last day.

It is written in the prophets:
They will all be taught by God,
and to hear the teaching of the Father,
and learn from it,

is to come to me.
Not that anybody has seen the Father,
except the one who comes from God:
he has seen the Father.
I tell you most solemnly,
everybody who believes has eternal life.

‘I am the bread of life.
Your fathers ate the manna in the desert
and they are dead;
but this is the bread that comes down from heaven,
so that a man may eat it and not die.
I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give is my flesh,
for the life of the world.’

The Response

Meditatio (reflection)

What does the Gospel say to me?

God has willed me to be here, now, today, for a reason. Now is the time to reflect, and find that reason, and hear what God has chosen to tell me.

A good pattern is this:

- What has drawn my attention or struck me in some way?*
- Why? Was it a person? A word? A situation? A gesture?*
- What, therefore, is God saying to me through these words, here and now, today?*

The “I” and the “me” are important. To say “we” or “us” is to evade the encounter by softening the focus and hiding behind membership of a group. The meeting with Jesus is face to face, one to one.

The shared echo

When several people are doing Lectio together, especially if they do so regularly, then there is the opportunity for each person to share the words that have had the most impact in today's passage, or the message it has conveyed.

There is no obligation to share an echo, and some members may take many meetings before sharing one, or may even never do so.

An echo is what struck me – not “you” or “us”. It is not a mini-sermon or a carefully crafted uplifting thought. Echoes do not have echoes. The sharing of echoes and the listening to echoes are not a discussion aiming at a conclusion, but the opening of one heart to another.

The experience of sharing echoes brings the group closer together. Over time, its power grows.

Oratio (prayer)

God has spoken to me. What do I reply?

Silently, each of us responds to what God has said to him through the passage we have read and even through the echoes we have heard.

As a matter of human practicality, one person should be responsible for deciding the time taken for silent prayer. Even better, a timer or hourglass can be used. Otherwise “Are we nearly there yet?” can be a potent distraction.

Contemplatio (contemplation)

Sometimes we may be led beyond prayer into a quiet and attentive resting in the presence of God.

Conclusion

We prepare to return to the everyday world, carrying with us what we have received in our minds and our hearts today.

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.

May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
see also [Saint Pius V, Pope](#)

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.
And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 66 (67)

“Let it be known to you that this salvation from God has been sent to all peoples” (Acts 28:28).

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its fruit
for God, our God, has blessed us.

May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Saint Pius V, Pope

see also [Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 66 (67)

“Let it be known to you that this salvation from God has been sent to all peoples” (Acts 28:28).

Christ is the chief shepherd, the leader of his flock: come, let us adore him, alleluia.

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its fruit

for God, our God, has blessed us.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Christ is the chief shepherd, the leader of his flock: come, let us adore him,
alleluia.*

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
see also [Saint Pius V, Pope](#)

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky,
Heav'n thunders forth its victor cry:
The glad earth shouts her triumph high,
And groaning hell makes wild reply.

While he, the King of sovereign might,
Treads down death's strength in death's despite,
And trampling hell by victor's right,
Brings forth his sleeping saints to light.

Fast barred beneath the stone of late,
In watch and ward where soldiers wait,

Now shining in triumphant state,
He rises victor from death's gate.

Hell's pains are loosed and tears are fled:
Captivity is captive led:
The angel, crowned with light, hath said:
'The Lord is risen from the dead.'

Author of all, be thou our guide
In this our joy of Eastertide;
Whene'er assaults of death impend,
Thy people strengthen and defend.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,
All glory, Lord, thy people give:
All glory, as is ever meet,
To Father and to Paraclete.

Psalm 86 (87)
Jerusalem, mother of all nations

“The Jerusalem which is above is free and is our mother” (Gal 4:26).

We will dance and sing; you are the source of life and our joy, city of God!
Alleluia.

On the holy mountain is his city
cherished by the Lord.
The Lord prefers the gates of Sion
to all Jacob's dwellings.
Of you are told glorious things,
O city of God!

'Babylon and Egypt I will count
among those who know me;
Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia,
these will be her children
and Sion shall be called "Mother"

for all shall be her children.’

It is he, the Lord Most High,
who gives each his place.
In his register of peoples he writes:
‘These are her children,’
and while they dance they will sing:
‘In you all find their home.’

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

We will dance and sing; you are the source of life and our joy, city of God!
Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord God, your only Son wept over ancient Jerusalem, soon to be destroyed for its lack of faith. He established the new Jerusalem firmly upon rock and made it the mother of the faithful. Make us rejoice in your Church and grant that all people may be reborn into the freedom of your Spirit.

Canticle

Isaiah 40

The good shepherd is God, the Most High

“Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me” (Rev 22:12).

He will tend his flock like a shepherd and carry them in his arms. Alleluia.

Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure
and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?

Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord,
or as his counsellor has instructed him?
Whom did he consult for his enlightenment,
and who taught him the path of justice,
taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding?

Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as the dust on the scales;
behold, he takes up the isles
like fine dust.

Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,
nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
All the nations are as nothing before him,
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd and carry them in his arms. Alleluia.

Psalm 98 (99)
The Lord our God is holy

“You are higher than the Cherubim; you changed the bad state of the earth, when you came in a nature like ours” (St Athanasius).

The Lord is great in Sion; he is supreme above all peoples. Alleluia.

The Lord is king; the peoples tremble.
He is throned on the cherubim; the earth quakes.
The Lord is great in Sion.

He is supreme over all the peoples.
Let them praise his name, so terrible and great,
he is holy, full of power.

You are a king who loves what is right;
you have established equity, justice and right;
you have established them in Jacob.

Exalt the Lord our God;
bow down before Sion, his footstool.
He the Lord is holy.

Among his priests were Aaron and Moses,
among those who invoked his name was Samuel.
They invoked the Lord and he answered.

To them he spoke in the pillar of cloud.
They did his will; they kept the law,
which he, the Lord, had given.

O Lord our God, you answered them.
For them you were a God who forgives;
yet you punished all their offences.

Exalt the Lord our God;
bow down before his holy mountain
for the Lord our God is holy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord is great in Sion; he is supreme above all peoples. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

God, you are the source of all holiness. Though no one can see you and live, you give life most generously and in an even greater way restore it. Sanctify your priests through your life-giving Word and consecrate your people in his blood until our eyes see your face.

Short Reading

Romans 8:10-11

Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Short Responsory

The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*

For our sake he died on the cross, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

I tell you solemnly, everybody who believes in me has eternal life. Alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

I tell you solemnly, everybody who believes in me has eternal life. Alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Let us offer our prayer to Christ, who rose from the dead and is living
always in his Church.

– *Lord, stay always with us.*

Lord, you triumphed over sin and death;
be present in our midst with your eternal life.

– *Lord, stay always with us.*

Come to us with your untiring strength;
and reveal in our lives the loving-kindness of God.

– *Lord, stay always with us.*

You alone can reconcile men and create a new spirit within them;
end the conflicts which divide our world.

– *Lord, stay always with us.*

Deepen our faith in your final victory;
let us find strength in the hope of your coming.

– *Lord, stay always with us.*

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.

Almighty, ever-living God,

make our hearts more open to your love

in these days of Eastertide,

when you have made known to us the depth of that love.

You have rescued us from the darkness of error:
make us adhere more firmly to the teachings of your truth.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Saint Pius V, Pope

see also [Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Who are these like stars appearing,
these, before God's throne who stand?

Each a golden crown is wearing;

who are all this glorious band?

Alleluia! Hark, they sing,

praising loud their heavenly King.

Who are these of dazzling brightness,
clothed in God's own righteousness?

These, whose robes of purest whiteness,

shall their lustre still possess,

still untouched by time's rude hand?

Whence came all this glorious band?

These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on till life was ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.

These are they whose hearts were riven,
sore with woe and anguish tried,
who in prayer full oft have striven
with the God they glorified;
now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.

These, the Almighty contemplating,
did as priests before him stand,
soul and body always waiting
day and night at his command:
now in God's most holy place
blest they stand before his face.

Psalm 86 (87)
Jerusalem, mother of all nations

“The Jerusalem which is above is free and is our mother” (Gal 4:26).

We will dance and sing; you are the source of life and our joy, city of God!
Alleluia.

On the holy mountain is his city
cherished by the Lord.
The Lord prefers the gates of Sion
to all Jacob's dwellings.
Of you are told glorious things,
O city of God!

‘Babylon and Egypt I will count
among those who know me;
Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia,
these will be her children
and Sion shall be called “Mother”
for all shall be her children.’

It is he, the Lord Most High,
who gives each his place.
In his register of peoples he writes:
‘These are her children,’
and while they dance they will sing:
‘In you all find their home.’

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*We will dance and sing; you are the source of life and our joy, city of God!
Alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Lord God, your only Son wept over ancient Jerusalem, soon to be destroyed for its lack of faith. He established the new Jerusalem firmly upon rock and made it the mother of the faithful. Make us rejoice in your Church and grant that all people may be reborn into the freedom of your Spirit.

Canticle

Isaiah 40

The good shepherd is God, the Most High

“Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me” (Rev 22:12).

He will tend his flock like a shepherd and carry them in his arms. Alleluia.

Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure
and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?

Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord,
or as his counsellor has instructed him?
Whom did he consult for his enlightenment,
and who taught him the path of justice,
taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding?

Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as the dust on the scales;
behold, he takes up the isles
like fine dust.

Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,
nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
All the nations are as nothing before him,
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd and carry them in his arms. Alleluia.

Psalm 98 (99)
The Lord our God is holy

“You are higher than the Cherubim; you changed the bad state of the earth, when you came in a nature like ours” (St Athanasius).

The Lord is great in Sion; he is supreme above all peoples. Alleluia.

The Lord is king; the peoples tremble.
He is throned on the cherubim; the earth quakes.
The Lord is great in Sion.

He is supreme over all the peoples.
Let them praise his name, so terrible and great,
he is holy, full of power.

You are a king who loves what is right;
you have established equity, justice and right;
you have established them in Jacob.

Exalt the Lord our God;
bow down before Sion, his footstool.
He the Lord is holy.

Among his priests were Aaron and Moses,
among those who invoked his name was Samuel.
They invoked the Lord and he answered.

To them he spoke in the pillar of cloud.
They did his will; they kept the law,
which he, the Lord, had given.

O Lord our God, you answered them.
For them you were a God who forgives;
yet you punished all their offences.

Exalt the Lord our God;

bow down before his holy mountain
for the Lord our God is holy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord is great in Sion; he is supreme above all peoples. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

God, you are the source of all holiness. Though no one can see you and live, you give life most generously and in an even greater way restore it. Sanctify your priests through your life-giving Word and consecrate your people in his blood until our eyes see your face.

Short Reading

Hebrews 13:7-9

Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for ever. Do not let yourselves be led astray by all sorts of strange doctrines.

Short Responsory

I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.
– *I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.*
They will never cease to tell of the name of the Lord, by day and by night.
– *I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *I placed watchmen on your towers, Jerusalem. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

It is not you who speak: the Spirit of your Father speaks in you. Alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

It is not you who speak: the Spirit of your Father speaks in you. Alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Christ, the good shepherd, laid down his life for his sheep. Let us praise him
with grateful hearts, as we pray:

– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

Christ our Lord, in the holy pastors you reveal your love for us;
may we never be deprived of the care you show through them.

– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

Through your sacred ministers you are present in our midst as the shepherd
of our souls;

never cease to guide us through their teaching and encouragement.

– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

In the saints who lead your people, you manifest your power of healing
souls and bodies;

remain always with us to renew our lives in holiness.

– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

By the example of the saints you instruct your faithful in the ways of
wisdom and love;

through our pastors, help us grow to the full stature of perfection.

– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

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.

Lord God, in your providence you called Pope Saint Pius

to defend the faith
and to enhance the dignity of divine worship.
Give us grace, through his prayer,
to worship you in your sacred mysteries
with an ardent faith and an active charity.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
see also [Saint Pius V, Pope](#)

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

O Christ, the heavens' eternal King,
Creator, unto thee we sing,
With God the Father ever One,
Co-equal, co-eternal Son.

Thy hand, when first the world began,
Made in thine own pure image man,
And linked to fleshly form of earth
A living soul of heavenly birth.

And when the envious crafty foe
Had marred thy noblest work below,
Thou didst our ruined state repair
By deigning flesh thyself to wear.

Once of a virgin born to save,
And now new born from death's dark grave,
O Christ, thou bidd'st us rise with thee
From death to immortality.

Eternal Shepherd, thou art wont
To cleanse Thy sheep within the font,
That mystic bath, that grave of sin,
Where ransomed souls new life begin.

Divine Redeemer, thou didst deign
To bear for us the cross of pain,
And freely pay the precious price
Of all thy blood in sacrifice.

Jesu, do thou to every heart
Unceasing Paschal joy impart;
From death of sin and guilty strife
Set free the new born sons of life.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 131 (132)
God's promise to the house of David

*“The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father”
(Lk 1:32).*

The Lord God gave him the throne of David, his father. Alleluia.

O Lord, remember David
and all the many hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the Lord,
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

‘I will not enter the house where I live
nor go to the bed where I rest.
I will give no sleep to my eyes,
to my eyelids I will give no slumber
till I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling for the Strong One of Jacob.’

At Ephrata we heard of the ark;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.
‘Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
let us go to kneel at his footstool.’

Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your strength.
Your priests shall be clothed with holiness;
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord God gave him the throne of David, his father. Alleluia.

Psalm 131 (132)

*Jesus Christ is the only Ruler over all, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
Alleluia.*

The Lord swore an oath to David;
he will not go back on his word:
‘A son, the fruit of your body,
will I set upon your throne.’

‘If they keep my covenant in truth
and my laws that I have taught them,
their sons also shall rule
on your throne from age to age.’

For the Lord has chosen Sion;
he has desired it for his dwelling:
‘This is my resting-place for ever;
here have I chosen to live.

‘I will greatly bless her produce,
I will fill her poor with bread.
I will clothe her priests with salvation
and her faithful shall ring out their joy.

‘There David’s stock will flower;
I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.
I will cover his enemies with shame
but on him my crown shall shine.’

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Jesus Christ is the only Ruler over all, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
Alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

You are our King, Lord God. Help us to find a place for you in our hearts.
Clothe your priests with saving power, fill the needy with bread, and let
your holiness shine on us all.

Or:

You have chosen the new Zion as your dwelling place, Lord God, the
Church as your place of rest. You have kindled in her a lamp that will burn

brightly for ever before Christ your Anointed One. Make our hearts your tabernacle, clothe your priests with justice, your faithful with holiness and give bread to the poor. May all rejoice with you in heaven.

Canticle

Apocalypse 11

The Judgement

Lord, who is your like, majestic in strength and holiness? Alleluia.

We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
who are and who were,
that you have taken your great power
and begun to reign.

The nations raged,
but your wrath came,
and the time for the dead to be judged,
for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,
and those who fear your name,
both small and great.

Now the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Christ have come,
for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down,
who accuses them day and night before our God.

And they have conquered him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
for they loved not their lives even unto death.
Rejoice, then, O heaven,
and you that dwell therein.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Lord, who is your like, majestic in strength and holiness? Alleluia.

Short Reading

1 Peter 3:18,21-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life. And now you are saved, not by the washing off of physical dirt but by a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Short Responsory

The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

They saw the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

I am the bread of life that has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever: and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world. Alleluia.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;

henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*I am the bread of life that has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats
this bread will live for ever: and the bread that I shall give is my
flesh, for the life of the world. Alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

Christ has risen from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Let us praise him in our prayer.

– *Risen Lord, hear us.*

Lord, remember the Church you built on the apostles;
bless all those who believe in you.

– *Risen Lord, hear us.*

You are the healer of body and soul;
come to us with your salvation.

– *Risen Lord, hear us.*

Comfort the sick and renew their strength;
deliver them from all pain and distress.

– *Risen Lord, hear us.*

Help the anguished and the oppressed;
in your love uphold the needy.

– *Risen Lord, hear us.*

Through your cross and resurrection you have won immortal life;
grant to our dead the joys of your kingdom.

– *Risen Lord, hear us.*

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.

Almighty, ever-living God,

make our hearts more open to your love

in these days of Eastertide,

when you have made known to us the depth of that love.

You have rescued us from the darkness of error:

make us adhere more firmly to the teachings of your truth.

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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Saint Pius V, Pope

see also [Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Who are these like stars appearing,
these, before God's throne who stand?

Each a golden crown is wearing;

who are all this glorious band?

Alleluia! Hark, they sing,

praising loud their heavenly King.

Who are these of dazzling brightness,
clothed in God's own righteousness?

These, whose robes of purest whiteness,

shall their lustre still possess,

still untouched by time's rude hand?

Whence came all this glorious band?

These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on till life was ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.

These are they whose hearts were riven,
sore with woe and anguish tried,
who in prayer full oft have striven
with the God they glorified;
now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.

These, the Almighty contemplating,
did as priests before him stand,
soul and body always waiting
day and night at his command:
now in God's most holy place
blest they stand before his face.

Psalm 131 (132)
God's promise to the house of David

**“The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father”
(Lk 1:32).**

The Lord God gave him the throne of David, his father. Alleluia.

O Lord, remember David
and all the many hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the Lord,
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

‘I will not enter the house where I live
nor go to the bed where I rest.
I will give no sleep to my eyes,

to my eyelids I will give no slumber
till I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling for the Strong One of Jacob.’

At Ephrata we heard of the ark;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.
‘Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
let us go to kneel at his footstool.’

Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your strength.
Your priests shall be clothed with holiness;
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord God gave him the throne of David, his father. Alleluia.

Psalm 131 (132)

*Jesus Christ is the only Ruler over all, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
Alleluia.*

The Lord swore an oath to David;
he will not go back on his word:
‘A son, the fruit of your body,
will I set upon your throne.

‘If they keep my covenant in truth
and my laws that I have taught them,
their sons also shall rule

on your throne from age to age.’

For the Lord has chosen Sion;
he has desired it for his dwelling:
‘This is my resting-place for ever;
here have I chosen to live.

‘I will greatly bless her produce,
I will fill her poor with bread.
I will clothe her priests with salvation
and her faithful shall ring out their joy.

‘There David’s stock will flower;
I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.
I will cover his enemies with shame
but on him my crown shall shine.’

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Jesus Christ is the only Ruler over all, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
Alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

You are our King, Lord God. Help us to find a place for you in our hearts. Clothe your priests with saving power, fill the needy with bread, and let your holiness shine on us all.

Or:

You have chosen the new Zion as your dwelling place, Lord God, the Church as your place of rest. You have kindled in her a lamp that will burn brightly for ever before Christ your Anointed One. Make our hearts your tabernacle, clothe your priests with justice, your faithful with holiness and give bread to the poor. May all rejoice with you in heaven.

The Judgement

Lord, who is your like, majestic in strength and holiness? Alleluia.

We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
who are and who were,
that you have taken your great power
and begun to reign.

The nations raged,
but your wrath came,
and the time for the dead to be judged,
for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,
and those who fear your name,
both small and great.

Now the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Christ have come,
for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down,
who accuses them day and night before our God.

And they have conquered him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
for they loved not their lives even unto death.
Rejoice, then, O heaven,
and you that dwell therein.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Lord, who is your like, majestic in strength and holiness? Alleluia.

Short Reading

1 Peter 5:1-4

Now I have something to tell your elders: I am an elder myself, and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and with you I have a share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be the shepherds of the flock of God that is entrusted to you: watch over it, not simply as a duty but gladly, because God wants it; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

Short Responsory

This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people. Alleluia, alleluia.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

He laid down his life for his brothers.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

*This is the faithful and wise steward whom the Master placed over his household to give them their measure of food at the proper time.
Alleluia.*

Or: I thank you, Christ, for honouring me by leading me to this glory. You are the good shepherd; I pray that the sheep which you have placed in my charge will share with me in your glory for ever. Alleluia.

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

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

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

This is the faithful and wise steward whom the Master placed over his household to give them their measure of food at the proper time. Alleluia.

Or: I thank you, Christ, for honouring me by leading me to this glory. You are the good shepherd; I pray that the sheep which you have placed in my charge will share with me in your glory for ever. Alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to Christ, the high priest, who was appointed to represent men
in their relations with God.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Lord Jesus, in times past you have lighted the way for your people through
wise and holy leaders;
may Christians always enjoy this sign of your loving kindness.

– *Lord, save your people.*

You forgave the sins of your people when holy pastors prayed;
continually cleanse your Church through their powerful intercession.

– *Lord, save your people.*

In the presence of their brothers, you anointed your holy ones and poured
on them your Spirit;
fill with your Holy Spirit all the leaders of your people.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Nothing could ever separate the holy pastors from your love;
do not lose even one of those whom you redeemed by your passion.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Through the pastors of your Church you give your sheep eternal life, and no
one can steal them from you;
save the faithful departed, for whom you laid down your life.

– *Lord, save your people.*

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.

Lord God, in your providence you called Pope Saint Pius

to defend the faith
and to enhance the dignity of divine worship.
Give us grace, through his prayer,
to worship you in your sacred mysteries
with an ardent faith and an active charity.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
or Saint Pius V, Pope

Compline (Night Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Examination of Conscience

This is an excellent moment for an examination of conscience. In a communal celebration of Compline, one of the penitential acts given in the Missal may be recited.

Hymn

Jesu, the world's redeeming Lord,
The Father's co-eternal Word,
Of light invisible true Light,
Thine Israel's Keeper day and night.

Our great Creator and our Guide,
Who times and seasons dost divide,
Refresh at night with quiet rest,
Our limbs by daily toil oppressed.

We pray thee, while we dwell below,
Preserve us from our ghostly foe;
Nor let his wiles victorious be
O'er them that are redeemed by thee.

That while in this frail house of clay
A little longer here we stay,
Our flesh in thee may sweetly sleep,
Our souls with thee their vigils keep.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be,
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 15 (16)
The Lord, my inheritance

“God raised up Jesus, freeing him from the pains of death”
(Acts 2:24).

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: ‘You are my God.
My happiness lies in you alone.’

He has put into my heart a marvellous love
for the faithful ones who dwell in his land.
Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows.
Never will I offer their offerings of blood.
Never will I take their name upon my lips.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
The lot marked out for me is my delight:
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me!

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
 who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
 since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
 even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
 nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
 the fullness of joy in your presence,
 at your right hand happiness for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ever shall be,
 world without end.

Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus, uphold those who hope in you and give us your counsel, so that we may know the joy of your resurrection and deserve to be among the saints at your right hand.

Or:

Father, in the mysterious plan of your love, you offered your Son the bitter cup of death, and yet you would not let your Holy One know decay, but opened to him the way of life. Help us to look for happiness in you alone and to share one day the glory of your Son's resurrection.

Short Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:23

May the God who gives us peace make you completely his, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from all fault, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Short Responsory

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.

At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

Lord our God,
 restore us again by the repose of sleep
 after the fatigue of our daily work,
so that, continually renewed by your help,
 we may serve you in body and soul.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Amen.

Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!
has risen as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!

Regína cæli, lætare, allelúia,
quia quem meruísti portáre, allelúia,
resurréxit sicut dixit, allelúia;
ora pro nobis Deum, allelúia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
see also [Saint Pius V, Pope](#)

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ex 15: 1-2

Let us sing to the Lord, for he has gloriously triumphed.
The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation, alleluia.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
let us feel your compassion more readily
during these days when, by your gift,
we have known it more fully,
so that those you have freed from the darkness of error
may cling more firmly to the teachings of your truth.
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.

First reading

Acts 8:26-40

Philip baptizes a eunuch

The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, ‘Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes from Jerusalem down to Gaza, the desert road.’ So

he set off on his journey. Now it happened that an Ethiopian had been on pilgrimage to Jerusalem; he was a eunuch and an officer at the court of the kandake, or queen, of Ethiopia, and was in fact her chief treasurer. He was now on his way home; and as he sat in his chariot he was reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and meet that chariot.' When Philip ran up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' 'How can I' he replied 'unless I have someone to guide me?' So he invited Philip to get in and sit by his side. Now the passage of scripture he was reading was this:

*Like a sheep that is led to the slaughter-house,
like a lamb that is dumb in front of its shearers,
like these he never opens his mouth.
He has been humiliated and has no one to defend him.
Who will ever talk about his descendants,
since his life on earth has been cut short!*

The eunuch turned to Philip and said, 'Tell me, is the prophet referring to himself or someone else?' Starting, therefore, with this text of scripture Philip proceeded to explain the Good News of Jesus to him.

Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'Look, there is some water here; is there anything to stop me being baptised?' He ordered the chariot to stop, then Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water and Philip baptised him. But after they had come up out of the water again Philip was taken away by the Spirit of the Lord, and the eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. Philip found that he had reached Azotus and continued his journey proclaiming the Good News in every town as far as Caesarea.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 65(66):8-9,16-17,20

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

or

Alleluia!

O peoples, bless our God,
let the voice of his praise resound,

of the God who gave life to our souls
and kept our feet from stumbling.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

or

Alleluia!

Come and hear, all who fear God.

I will tell what he did for my soul:
to him I cried aloud,
with high praise ready on my tongue.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

or

Alleluia!

Blessed be God

who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

or

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord, who hung for us upon the tree,
has risen from the tomb.

Alleluia!

Or:

Jn6:51

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven,
says the Lord.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘No one can come to me
unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me,
and I will raise him up at the last day.

It is written in the prophets:
They will all be taught by God,
and to hear the teaching of the Father,
and learn from it,
is to come to me.

Not that anybody has seen the Father,
except the one who comes from God:
he has seen the Father.

I tell you most solemnly,
everybody who believes has eternal life.

‘I am the bread of life.

Your fathers ate the manna in the desert
and they are dead;
but this is the bread that comes down from heaven,
so that a man may eat it and not die.

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give is my flesh,
for the life of the world.’

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.

Communion Antiphon

2 Cor 5: 15

Christ died for all, that those who live
may live no longer for themselves,
but for him, who died for them and is risen, 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.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Thursday 30 April 2020

Saint Pius V, Pope

see also [Thursday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord chose him for himself as high priest,
and, opening his treasure house,
made him rich in all good things, alleluia.

Or:

Cf. Sir 50: 1; 44: 16, 22

Behold a great priest, who in his days pleased God;
therefore, in accordance with his promise,
the Lord gave him growth for the good of his people, alleluia.

Collect

O God, who in your providence
raised up Pope Saint Pius the Fifth in your Church
that the faith might be safeguarded
and more fitting worship be offered to you,
grant, through his intercession,
that we may participate in your mysteries
with lively faith and fruitful charity.
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.

[Readings for the feria](#)

[Readings for the memorial](#)

These are the readings for the feria

First reading

Acts 8:26-40

Philip baptizes a eunuch

The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, 'Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes from Jerusalem down to Gaza, the desert road.' So he set off on his journey. Now it happened that an Ethiopian had been on pilgrimage to Jerusalem; he was a eunuch and an officer at the court of the kandake, or queen, of Ethiopia, and was in fact her chief treasurer. He was now on his way home; and as he sat in his chariot he was reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and meet that chariot.' When Philip ran up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' 'How can I' he replied 'unless I have someone to guide me?' So he invited Philip to get in and sit by his side. Now the passage of scripture he was reading was this:

*Like a sheep that is led to the slaughter-house,
like a lamb that is dumb in front of its shearers,
like these he never opens his mouth.
He has been humiliated and has no one to defend him.
Who will ever talk about his descendants,
since his life on earth has been cut short!*

The eunuch turned to Philip and said, 'Tell me, is the prophet referring to himself or someone else?' Starting, therefore, with this text of scripture Philip proceeded to explain the Good News of Jesus to him.

Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'Look, there is some water here; is there anything to stop me being baptised?' He ordered the chariot to stop, then Philip and the

eunuch both went down into the water and Philip baptised him. But after they had come up out of the water again Philip was taken away by the Spirit of the Lord, and the eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. Philip found that he had reached Azotus and continued his journey proclaiming the Good News in every town as far as Caesarea.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 65(66):8-9,16-17,20

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

or

Alleluia!

O peoples, bless our God,
let the voice of his praise resound,
of the God who gave life to our souls
and kept our feet from stumbling.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

or

Alleluia!

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
to him I cried aloud,
with high praise ready on my tongue.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

or

Alleluia!

Blessed be God
who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

or

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord, who hung for us upon the tree,
has risen from the tomb.
Alleluia!

Or:

Jn6:51

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the living bread which has come down from heaven,
says the Lord.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:44-51

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘No one can come to me
unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me,
and I will raise him up at the last day.

It is written in the prophets:

They will all be taught by God,
and to hear the teaching of the Father,
and learn from it,
is to come to me.

Not that anybody has seen the Father,
except the one who comes from God:
he has seen the Father.

I tell you most solemnly,
everybody who believes has eternal life.

‘I am the bread of life.

Your fathers ate the manna in the desert

and they are dead;
but this is the bread that comes down from heaven,
so that a man may eat it and not die.
I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give is my flesh,
for the life of the world.'

[Continue](#)

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

The Lord alone is our judge

People must think of us as Christ's servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God. What is expected of stewards is that each one should be found worthy of his trust. Not that it makes the slightest difference to me whether you, or indeed any human tribunal, find me worthy or not. I will not even pass judgement on myself. True, my conscience does not reproach me at all, but that does not prove that I am acquitted: the Lord alone is my judge. There must be no passing of premature judgement. Leave that until the Lord comes; he will light up all that is hidden in the dark and reveal the secret intentions of men's hearts. Then will be the time for each one to have whatever praise he deserves, from God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 109(110):1-4

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

The Lord's revelation to my Master:

‘Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet.’

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

The Lord will wield from Zion
your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.
‘You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old.’

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 21:15-17

Feed my lambs, feed my sheep

Jesus showed himself to his disciples, and after they had eaten he said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?’ He answered, ‘Yes Lord, you know I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He replied, ‘Yes, Lord, you know I love you.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Look after my sheep.’ Then he said to him a third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ and said, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’

[Continue](#)

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept this sacrifice from your people, we pray, O Lord,
and make what is offered for your glory,
in honour of blessed **N.**,
a means to our eternal salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Jn 10: 11

The Good Shepherd has laid down his life
for his sheep, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

May the Sacrament we have received, O Lord our God,
stir up in us that fire of charity
with which blessed **N.** burned ardently
as he gave himself unceasingly for your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Joseph the Worker](#)

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Get the next e-book](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Saint Joseph the Worker

see also [Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Get the next e-book](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Joseph the Worker](#)

Lectio Divina

Introduction

Make whatever preparations you need to leave the shadow world behind and encounter the fire of the Spirit and the light of God.

If you have chosen a specific bodily position, adopt it. If you have chosen to prepare the space and the place in some way (perhaps drawing a curtain or lighting a candle), make that preparation.

Eliminate distractions and the possibility of interruption.

Sign of the Cross

We invoke God, in whose name we act and to whom we are about to open ourselves.

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

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

We invoke the Holy Spirit, who will speak to us and listen in us.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Act of Contrition

By acknowledging our sinfulness and admitting that by ourselves we can do nothing that is not flawed, we ask God to take the initiative in this encounter.

Have mercy on us, O Lord:
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy:
And grant us your salvation.

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

Amen.

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The Gospel should be read slowly, meditatively, with pauses between sentences or whenever the sense requires it. The aim is not to tell the text to God, who knows it already, but to let God tell it to us. For this, there have to be silences so that what God is telling us can be heard.

When a group is doing Lectio Divina, it is usually best to take turns in reading the words of the Gospel, since for many people speaking will bring the words to mind better than hearing does. But do not let this become a distraction in itself: have a clear order known in advance, and a simple signal for handing over the baton from one person to the next.

John 6:52-59

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink

The Jews started arguing with one another: ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ they said. Jesus replied:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood
has eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me
and I live in him.
As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.
This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate:
they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

He taught this doctrine at Capernaum, in the synagogue.

The Response

Meditatio (reflection)

What does the Gospel say to me?

God has willed me to be here, now, today, for a reason. Now is the time to reflect, and find that reason, and hear what God has chosen to tell me.

A good pattern is this:

- What has drawn my attention or struck me in some way?*
- Why? Was it a person? A word? A situation? A gesture?*
- What, therefore, is God saying to me through these words, here and now, today?*

The “I” and the “me” are important. To say “we” or “us” is to evade the encounter by softening the focus and hiding behind membership of a group. The meeting with Jesus is face to face, one to one.

The shared echo

When several people are doing Lectio together, especially if they do so regularly, then there is the opportunity for each person to share the words that have had the most impact in today’s passage, or the message it has conveyed.

There is no obligation to share an echo, and some members may take many meetings before sharing one, or may even never do so.

An echo is what struck me – not “you” or “us”. It is not a mini-sermon or a carefully crafted uplifting thought. Echoes do not have echoes. The sharing of echoes and the listening to echoes are not a discussion aiming at a conclusion, but the opening of one heart to another.

The experience of sharing echoes brings the group closer together. Over time, its power grows.

Oratio (prayer)

God has spoken to me. What do I reply?

Silently, each of us responds to what God has said to him through the passage we have read and even through the echoes we have heard.

As a matter of human practicality, one person should be responsible for deciding the time taken for silent prayer. Even better, a timer or hourglass can be used. Otherwise “Are we nearly there yet?” can be a potent distraction.

Contemplatio (contemplation)

Sometimes we may be led beyond prayer into a quiet and attentive resting in the presence of God.

Conclusion

We prepare to return to the everyday world, carrying with us what we have received in our minds and our hearts today.

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.

May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Saint Joseph the Worker

see also [Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Lectio Divina

Introduction

Make whatever preparations you need to leave the shadow world behind and encounter the fire of the Spirit and the light of God.

If you have chosen a specific bodily position, adopt it. If you have chosen to prepare the space and the place in some way (perhaps drawing a curtain or lighting a candle), make that preparation.

Eliminate distractions and the possibility of interruption.

Sign of the Cross

We invoke God, in whose name we act and to whom we are about to open ourselves.

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

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

We invoke the Holy Spirit, who will speak to us and listen in us.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Act of Contrition

By acknowledging our sinfulness and admitting that by ourselves we can do nothing that is not flawed, we ask God to take the initiative in this encounter.

Have mercy on us, O Lord:
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy:
And grant us your salvation.

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

Amen.

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Gospel should be read slowly, meditatively, with pauses between sentences or whenever the sense requires it. The aim is not to tell the text to God, who knows it already, but to let God tell it to us. For this, there have to be silences so that what God is telling us can be heard.

When a group is doing Lectio Divina, it is usually best to take turns in reading the words of the Gospel, since for many people speaking will bring the words to mind better than hearing does. But do not let this become a distraction in itself: have a clear order known in advance, and a simple signal for handing over the baton from one person to the next.

Matthew 13:54-58

A prophet is only despised in his own country

Coming to his home town, Jesus taught the people in their synagogue in such a way that they were astonished and said, 'Where did the man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? This is the carpenter's son, surely? Is not his mother the woman called Mary, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Jude? His sisters, too, are they not all here with us? So where did the man get it all?' And they would not accept him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country and in his own

house’, and he did not work many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

The Response

Meditatio (reflection)

What does the Gospel say to me?

God has willed me to be here, now, today, for a reason. Now is the time to reflect, and find that reason, and hear what God has chosen to tell me.

A good pattern is this:

- What has drawn my attention or struck me in some way?*
- Why? Was it a person? A word? A situation? A gesture?*
- What, therefore, is God saying to me through these words, here and now, today?*

The “I” and the “me” are important. To say “we” or “us” is to evade the encounter by softening the focus and hiding behind membership of a group. The meeting with Jesus is face to face, one to one.

The shared echo

When several people are doing Lectio together, especially if they do so regularly, then there is the opportunity for each person to share the words that have had the most impact in today’s passage, or the message it has conveyed.

There is no obligation to share an echo, and some members may take many meetings before sharing one, or may even never do so.

An echo is what struck me – not “you” or “us”. It is not a mini-sermon or a carefully crafted uplifting thought. Echoes do not have echoes. The sharing of echoes and the listening to echoes are not a discussion aiming at a conclusion, but the opening of one heart to another.

The experience of sharing echoes brings the group closer together. Over time, its power grows.

Oratio (prayer)

God has spoken to me. What do I reply?

Silently, each of us responds to what God has said to him through the passage we have read and even through the echoes we have heard.

As a matter of human practicality, one person should be responsible for deciding the time taken for silent prayer. Even better, a timer or hourglass can be used. Otherwise “Are we nearly there yet?” can be a potent distraction.

Contemplatio (contemplation)

Sometimes we may be led beyond prayer into a quiet and attentive resting in the presence of God.

Conclusion

We prepare to return to the everyday world, carrying with us what we have received in our minds and our hearts today.

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.

May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Joseph the Worker](#)

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 23 (24)

“The gates of heaven were opened to Christ because he was lifted up in the flesh” (St Irenaeus).

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things,
who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbour.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.

Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory?

The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;

grow higher, ancient doors.

Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory?

He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen.

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Saint Joseph the Worker

see also [Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 23 (24)

“The gates of heaven were opened to Christ because he was lifted up in the flesh” (St Irenaeus).

Christ the Lord allowed himself to be considered the son of a carpenter: come, let us adore him, alleluia.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things,
who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbour.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

O gates, lift high your heads;

grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Christ the Lord allowed himself to be considered the son of a carpenter:
come, let us adore him, alleluia.*

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
see also [Saint Joseph the Worker](#)

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky,
Heav'n thunders forth its victor cry:
The glad earth shouts her triumph high,
And groaning hell makes wild reply.

While he, the King of sovereign might,
Treads down death's strength in death's despite,
And trampling hell by victor's right,
Brings forth his sleeping saints to light.

Fast barred beneath the stone of late,
In watch and ward where soldiers wait,

Now shining in triumphant state,
He rises victor from death's gate.

Hell's pains are loosed and tears are fled:
Captivity is captive led:
The angel, crowned with light, hath said:
'The Lord is risen from the dead.'

Author of all, be thou our guide
In this our joy of Eastertide;
Whene'er assaults of death impend,
Thy people strengthen and defend.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,
All glory, Lord, thy people give:
All glory, as is ever meet,
To Father and to Paraclete.

Psalm 50 (51)
God, have mercy on me

“You must be made new in mind and spirit, and put on the new nature of God's creating” (Eph 4:23,24).

O Lord, wash me more and more from my guilt. Alleluia.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without reproach when you judge,

O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed may revive.

From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favour to Sion:
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
holocausts offered on your altar.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

O Lord, wash me more and more from my guilt. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Father, he who knew no sin was made sin for us, to save us and restore us to your friendship. Look upon our contrite heart and afflicted spirit and heal our troubled conscience, so that in the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit we may proclaim your praise and glory before all the nations.

Canticle

Jeremiah 14

Lamentation of the people in the time of famine and war

**“The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel”
(Mk 1:15).**

Christ bore our sins in his own body on the cross. Alleluia.

Let my eyes run down with tears night and day,
and let them not cease,
for the virgin daughter of my people is smitten with a great wound,
with a very grievous blow.

If I go out into the field,
behold, those slain by the sword!
And if I enter the city,
behold, the diseases of famine!
For both prophet and priest ply their trade through the land,
and have no knowledge.

Have you utterly rejected Judah?
Does your soul loathe Sion?
Why have you smitten us

so that there is no healing for us?

We looked for peace,
but no good came;
for a time of healing,
but behold, terror.

We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord,
and the iniquity of our fathers,
for we have sinned against you.
Do not spurn us, for your name's sake,
do not dishonour your glorious throne;
remember and do not break your covenant with us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Christ bore our sins in his own body on the cross. Alleluia.

Psalm 99 (100)
Enter the Temple with joy

*“The Lord calls all those he has redeemed to sing a hymn of victory”
(St Athanasius).*

Come before the Lord, singing for joy. Alleluia.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Go within his gates, giving thanks.
Enter his courts with songs of praise.
Give thanks to him and bless his name.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Come before the Lord, singing for joy. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

With joy and gladness we cry out to you, Lord, and ask you: open our hearts to sing your praises and announce your goodness and truth.

Or:

God, devoted to us as a Father, you created us as a sign of your power and elected us your people to show your goodness. Accept the thanks your children offer that all men may enter your courts praising you in song.

Short Reading

Acts 5:30-32

It was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.

Short Responsory

The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*

For our sake he died on the cross, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *The Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in him. Alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God

who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in him. Alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to God the Father, who has given us new life through the
resurrection of Christ.

– *Make us radiant with Christ's glory.*

Almighty God, creator of the world, you revealed the old covenant by your
mighty deeds and were faithful to men down through the ages;
loving Father, hear the prayer of your children.

– *Make us radiant with Christ's glory.*

Cleanse our hearts by your truth and guide our lives by your holiness;
may we do what is right and pleasing to you.

– *Make us radiant with Christ's glory.*

Let the light of your face shine upon us;
free us from sin and fill us with your goodness.

– *Make us radiant with Christ's glory.*

Peace was your Son's parting gift to the apostles;
grant your peace to us and to people everywhere.

– *Make us radiant with Christ's glory.*

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.

Almighty God,
we have come to know the grace of our Lord's resurrection.
Grant that through the love of your Spirit
we may rise to new life.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Saint Joseph the Worker

see also [Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

O Blessed Joseph, yours the praise

The choirs of angels sing,

The guardian of the Virgin blest,

And of her Child and King.

The prophets told of God to come:

The Son of God on earth;

Yours was the glory then to be

There at the Saviour's birth.

To him, the Father's only Son

You served as father here;

He was subjected to your will
He, whom the heavens revere.

As once you sought and found again
The Christ, the Lord of light;
So may we walk with him, like you
All humble in his sight.

O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God of truth and grace,
By holy Joseph's prayers grant
That we may see your face.

Stanbrook Abbey Hymnal

Psalm 50 (51)
God, have mercy on me

“You must be made new in mind and spirit, and put on the new nature of God's creating” (Eph 4:23,24).

O Lord, wash me more and more from my guilt. Alleluia.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without reproach when you judge,
O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;

then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed may revive.
From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favour to Sion:
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
holocausts offered on your altar.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

O Lord, wash me more and more from my guilt. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Father, he who knew no sin was made sin for us, to save us and restore us to your friendship. Look upon our contrite heart and afflicted spirit and heal our troubled conscience, so that in the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit we may proclaim your praise and glory before all the nations.

Canticle

Jeremiah 14

Lamentation of the people in the time of famine and war

*“The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel”
(Mk 1:15).*

Christ bore our sins in his own body on the cross. Alleluia.

Let my eyes run down with tears night and day,
and let them not cease,
for the virgin daughter of my people is smitten with a great wound,
with a very grievous blow.

If I go out into the field,
behold, those slain by the sword!
And if I enter the city,
behold, the diseases of famine!
For both prophet and priest ply their trade through the land,
and have no knowledge.

Have you utterly rejected Judah?
Does your soul loathe Sion?
Why have you smitten us
so that there is no healing for us?

We looked for peace,
but no good came;

for a time of healing,
but behold, terror.

We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord,
and the iniquity of our fathers,
for we have sinned against you.

Do not spurn us, for your name's sake,
do not dishonour your glorious throne;
remember and do not break your covenant with us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Christ bore our sins in his own body on the cross. Alleluia.

Psalm 99 (100)
Enter the Temple with joy

**“The Lord calls all those he has redeemed to sing a hymn of victory”
(St Athanasius).**

Come before the Lord, singing for joy. Alleluia.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Go within his gates, giving thanks.
Enter his courts with songs of praise.
Give thanks to him and bless his name.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Come before the Lord, singing for joy. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

With joy and gladness we cry out to you, Lord, and ask you: open our hearts to sing your praises and announce your goodness and truth.

Or:

God, devoted to us as a Father, you created us as a sign of your power and elected us your people to show your goodness. Accept the thanks your children offer that all men may enter your courts praising you in song.

Short Reading

2 Samuel 7:28-29

Lord, you are God indeed, your words are true and you have made this fair promise to your servant. Be pleased, then, to bless the House of your servant, that it may continue for ever in your presence; for you, Lord, have spoken; and with your blessing the House of your servant will be for ever blessed.

Short Responsory

The Lord made him master of his own house. Alleluia, alleluia.
– *The Lord made him master of his own house. Alleluia, alleluia.*
He constituted him ruler of all that he possessed.
– *The Lord made him master of his own house. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *The Lord made him master of his own house. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

Saint Joseph worked faithfully as a carpenter. He shines as an example to all workmen, alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,

those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Saint Joseph worked faithfully as a carpenter. He shines as an example to
all workmen, alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

Whatever we do or say, let us do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the Father through him.

– *Lord, hear us.*

As Joseph believed what you had told him, and became the guardian of
your only Son:

so may we put our faith in you, and receive the fulfilment of your
promise.

– *Lord, hear us.*

Father, give us that faith which gives substance to our hopes,
and make us certain of realities we do not see.

– *Lord, hear us.*

Joseph took the child Jesus into his care, loving and accepting him as his
own Son:

may we accept all that God gives us, and care for those entrusted to us.

– *Lord, hear us.*

You have given man authority over the work of your hands and invited him
to share in your creation:

help us to accept our responsibility by working for your glory and the
good of all mankind.

– *Lord, hear us.*

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.

Lord God and Creator of the universe,
you imposed on mankind the law of work.

Give us grace, by Saint Joseph's example and at his intercession,
to finish the works you give us to do,
and to come to the rewards you promise.

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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
see also [Saint Joseph the Worker](#)

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

O Christ, the heavens' eternal King,
Creator, unto thee we sing,
With God the Father ever One,
Co-equal, co-eternal Son.

Thy hand, when first the world began,
Made in thine own pure image man,
And linked to fleshly form of earth
A living soul of heavenly birth.

And when the envious crafty foe
Had marred thy noblest work below,
Thou didst our ruined state repair
By deigning flesh thyself to wear.

Once of a virgin born to save,
And now new born from death's dark grave,
O Christ, thou bidd'st us rise with thee
From death to immortality.

Eternal Shepherd, thou art wont
To cleanse Thy sheep within the font,
That mystic bath, that grave of sin,
Where ransomed souls new life begin.

Divine Redeemer, thou didst deign
To bear for us the cross of pain,
And freely pay the precious price
Of all thy blood in sacrifice.

Jesu, do thou to every heart
Unceasing Paschal joy impart;
From death of sin and guilty strife
Set free the new born sons of life.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 134 (135)
Praise the Lord, the wonder-worker

“You are a chosen race. Sing the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Pet 2:9).

I, the Lord, am your Saviour, I am your Redeemer. Alleluia.

Praise the name of the Lord,
 praise him, servants of the Lord,
who stand in the house of the Lord
 in the courts of the house of our God.

Praise the Lord for the Lord is good.
Sing a psalm to his name for he is loving.
For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself
and Israel for his own possession.

For I know the Lord is great,
that our Lord is high above all gods.
The Lord does whatever he wills,
in heaven, on earth, in the seas.

He summons clouds from the ends of the earth;
makes lightning produce the rain;
from his treasuries he sends forth the wind.

The first-born of the Egyptians he smote,
of man and beast alike.
Signs and wonders he worked
in the midst of your land, O Egypt,
against Pharaoh and all his servants.

Nations in their greatness he struck
and kings in their splendour he slew.
Sihon, king of the Amorites,
Og, the king of Bashan,
and all the kingdoms of Canaan.
He let Israel inherit their land;
on his people their land he bestowed.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

I, the Lord, am your Saviour, I am your Redeemer. Alleluia.

Psalm 134 (135)

*Blessed is the kingdom of our father David which has come among us.
Alleluia.*

Lord, your name stands for ever,
unforgotten from age to age,
for the Lord does justice for his people;
the Lord takes pity on his servants.

Pagan idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.
They have mouths but they cannot speak;
they have eyes but they cannot see.

They have ears but they cannot hear;
there is never a breath on their lips.
Their makers will come to be like them
and so will all who trust in them!

Sons of Israel, bless the Lord!
Sons of Aaron, bless the Lord!
Sons of Levi, bless the Lord!
You who fear him, bless the Lord!

From Sion may the Lord be blessed,
he who dwells in Jerusalem!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Blessed is the kingdom of our father David which has come among us.
Alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Father, your name and your memory last for ever. We stand to pray in your house and praise you with psalms of joy. We ask you in your kindness to

have mercy on us in our lowliness.

Or:

Father, you shattered the powers of darkness, with all their evil plots, to give strength to your servants and make them magnanimous in the struggle for eternal life. Have mercy on us and do not permit us to be deceived by false idols. May we praise your name for ever and receive the eternal gift of our inheritance.

Canticle

Apocalypse 15

A hymn of adoration

Let us sing to the Lord: great is his triumph. Alleluia.

Great and wonderful are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the ages!

Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord?
For you alone are holy.
All nations shall come and worship you,
for your judgements have been revealed.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Let us sing to the Lord: great is his triumph. Alleluia.

Short Reading

Hebrews 5:8-10

Christ, although he was Son, learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation and was acclaimed by God with the title of high priest *of the order of Melchizedek*.

Short Responsory

The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

They saw the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

*Christ died on the cross and rose again from the dead to redeem us.
Alleluia.*

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

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

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Christ died on the cross and rose again from the dead to redeem us.
Alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to Christ, the way, the truth and the life.
– *Son of the living God, bless your people.*

We pray for all the ministers of your Church:
may they be nourished and sustained as they break for their brothers the
bread of life.
– *Son of the living God, bless your people.*

We pray for the whole Christian people:
may they be faithful to their calling and hold fast in bonds of peace the
unity of the spirit.
– *Son of the living God, bless your people.*

We pray for those who govern our country that they may exercise their
office with justice and compassion;
help them to promote the peace of the world.
– *Son of the living God, bless your people.*

Make us worthy to adore you in the communion of saints;
grant eternal joy to the faithful departed, whom we entrust to your care.
– *Son of the living God, bless your people.*

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.

Almighty God,

we have come to know the grace of our Lord's resurrection.

Grant that through the love of your Spirit
we may rise to new life.

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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Saint Joseph the Worker

see also [Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

O Blessed Joseph, yours the praise

The choirs of angels sing,

The guardian of the Virgin blest,

And of her Child and King.

The prophets told of God to come:

The Son of God on earth;

Yours was the glory then to be

There at the Saviour's birth.

To him, the Father's only Son

You served as father here;

He was subjected to your will

He, whom the heavens revere.

As once you sought and found again
The Christ, the Lord of light;
So may we walk with him, like you
All humble in his sight.

O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God of truth and grace,
By holy Joseph's prayers grant
That we may see your face.

Stanbrook Abbey Hymnal

Psalm 134 (135)
Praise the Lord, the wonder-worker

*“You are a chosen race. Sing the praises of the one who called you out
of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Pet 2:9).*

I, the Lord, am your Saviour, I am your Redeemer. Alleluia.

Praise the name of the Lord,
praise him, servants of the Lord,
who stand in the house of the Lord
in the courts of the house of our God.

Praise the Lord for the Lord is good.
Sing a psalm to his name for he is loving.
For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself
and Israel for his own possession.

For I know the Lord is great,
that our Lord is high above all gods.
The Lord does whatever he wills,
in heaven, on earth, in the seas.

He summons clouds from the ends of the earth;
makes lightning produce the rain;
from his treasuries he sends forth the wind.

The first-born of the Egyptians he smote,
of man and beast alike.

Signs and wonders he worked
in the midst of your land, O Egypt,
against Pharaoh and all his servants.

Nations in their greatness he struck
and kings in their splendour he slew.

Sihon, king of the Amorites,
Og, the king of Bashan,
and all the kingdoms of Canaan.

He let Israel inherit their land;
on his people their land he bestowed.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

I, the Lord, am your Saviour, I am your Redeemer. Alleluia.

Psalm 134 (135)

*Blessed is the kingdom of our father David which has come among us.
Alleluia.*

Lord, your name stands for ever,
unforgotten from age to age,
for the Lord does justice for his people;
the Lord takes pity on his servants.

Pagan idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.
They have mouths but they cannot speak;
they have eyes but they cannot see.

They have ears but they cannot hear;
there is never a breath on their lips.
Their makers will come to be like them
and so will all who trust in them!

Sons of Israel, bless the Lord!
Sons of Aaron, bless the Lord!
Sons of Levi, bless the Lord!
You who fear him, bless the Lord!

From Sion may the Lord be blessed,
he who dwells in Jerusalem!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Blessed is the kingdom of our father David which has come among us.
Alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Father, your name and your memory last for ever. We stand to pray in your house and praise you with psalms of joy. We ask you in your kindness to have mercy on us in our lowliness.

Or:

Father, you shattered the powers of darkness, with all their evil plots, to give strength to your servants and make them magnanimous in the struggle for eternal life. Have mercy on us and do not permit us to be deceived by false idols. May we praise your name for ever and receive the eternal gift of our inheritance.

A hymn of adoration

Let us sing to the Lord: great is his triumph. Alleluia.

Great and wonderful are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the ages!

Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord?
For you alone are holy.
All nations shall come and worship you,
for your judgements have been revealed.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Let us sing to the Lord: great is his triumph. Alleluia.

Short Reading

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as if it were for the Lord and not for men, knowing that the Lord will repay you by making you his heirs. It is Christ the Lord that you are serving.

Short Responsory

The virtuous man will bloom like the lily. Alleluia, alleluia.
– *The virtuous man will bloom like the lily. Alleluia, alleluia.*
He will grow for ever before the Lord.
– *The virtuous man will bloom like the lily. Alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *The virtuous man will bloom like the lily. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

*Christ the Lord allowed himself to be considered the son of a carpenter,
alleluia.*

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

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

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Christ the Lord allowed himself to be considered the son of a carpenter,
alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to God our Father, for from him all fatherhood in heaven and on earth takes its name.

– *Father, hallowed be your name*

Father, in your Son you revealed to Joseph the mystery kept secret for endless ages:

help us to acknowledge your Son as God and man.

– *Father, hallowed be your name*

Father, you enabled Joseph to spend his life in your service:

set our minds on your kingdom and your justice before all other things.

– *Father, hallowed be your name*

Father, your will is that every man should accept and answer your call:

by the prayer of Joseph, give us the grace to live in accord with your will.

– *Father, hallowed be your name*

Creator of all things, you have entrusted your work to our hands:

grant that our labours may prove worthy of you.

– *Father, hallowed be your name*

Father, in whom all men live, grant to those who have died new life,
through your Son;

with Mary, and Joseph, and all your saints for ever.

– *Father, hallowed be your name*

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.

Lord God and Creator of the universe,
you imposed on mankind the law of work.
Give us grace, by Saint Joseph's example and at his intercession,
to finish the works you give us to do,
and to come to the rewards you promise.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide
or Saint Joseph the Worker

Compline (Night Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Examination of Conscience

This is an excellent moment for an examination of conscience. In a communal celebration of Compline, one of the penitential acts given in the Missal may be recited.

Hymn

Jesu, the world's redeeming Lord,
The Father's co-eternal Word,
Of light invisible true Light,
Thine Israel's Keeper day and night.

Our great Creator and our Guide,
Who times and seasons dost divide,
Refresh at night with quiet rest,
Our limbs by daily toil oppressed.

We pray thee, while we dwell below,
Preserve us from our ghostly foe;
Nor let his wiles victorious be
O'er them that are redeemed by thee.

That while in this frail house of clay
A little longer here we stay,
Our flesh in thee may sweetly sleep,
Our souls with thee their vigils keep.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be,
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 87 (88)
The prayer of one gravely ill

“This is your hour; this is the reign of darkness” (Lk 22:53).

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Lord my God, I call for help by day;
I cry at night before you.
Let my prayer come into your presence.
O turn your ear to my cry.

For my soul is filled with evils;
my life is on the brink of the grave.
I am reckoned as one in the tomb:
I have reached the end of my strength,

like one alone among the dead;
like the slain lying in their graves;
like those you remember no more,
cut off, as they are, from your hand.

You have laid me in the depths of the tomb,

in places that are dark, in the depths.
Your anger weighs down upon me:
I am drowned beneath your waves.

You have taken away my friends
and made me hateful in their sight.
Imprisoned, I cannot escape;
my eyes are sunken with grief.

I call to you, Lord, all the day long;
to you I stretch out my hands.
Will you work your wonders for the dead?
Will the shades stand and praise you?

Will your love be told in the grave
or your faithfulness among the dead?
Will your wonders be known in the dark
or your justice in the land of oblivion?

As for me, Lord, I call to you for help:
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
Lord, why do you reject me?
Why do you hide your face?

Wretched, close to death from my youth,
I have borne your trials; I am numb.
Your fury has swept down upon me;
your terrors have utterly destroyed me.

They surround me all the day like a flood,
they assail me all together.
Friend and neighbour you have taken away:
my one companion is darkness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus, redeemer of all and author of our salvation, for us you went down to the realm of death and became free of death. Hear the prayers of your family and lift us from our slavery to evil, that we may be redeemed by you and see your Father's glory.

Or:

Lord Jesus Christ, you chose to suffer and be overwhelmed by death in order to open the gates of death in triumph. Stay with us to help us on our pilgrimage; free us from all evil by the power of your resurrection. In the company of your saints, and constantly remembering your love for us, may we sing of your wonders in our Father's house.

Short Reading

(Jeremiah 14:9)

Lord, you are in our midst, we are called by your name. Do not desert us, O Lord our God!

Short Responsory

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.

At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

Give us grace, almighty God,
so to unite ourselves in faith with your only Son,
who underwent death and lay buried in the tomb,
that we may rise again in newness of life with him,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!

for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!
has risen as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!

Regína cæli, lætare, allelúia,
quia quem meruísti portáre, allelúia,
resurréxit sicut dixit, allelúia;
ora pro nobis Deum, allelúia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

see also [Saint Joseph the Worker](#)

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Rv 5: 12

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity, and wisdom
and strength and honour, alleluia.

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that we, who have come to know
the grace of the Lord's Resurrection,
may, through the love of the Spirit,
ourselves rise to newness of life.
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.

First reading

Acts 9:1-20

This man is my chosen instrument to bring my name before the pagans

Saul was still breathing threats to slaughter the Lord's disciples. He had gone to the high priest and asked for letters addressed to the synagogues in

Damascus, that would authorise him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way, men or women, that he could find.

Suddenly, while he was travelling to Damascus and just before he reached the city, there came a light from heaven all round him. He fell to the ground, and then he heard a voice saying, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ‘Who are you, Lord?’ he asked, and the voice answered, ‘I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me. Get up now and go into the city, and you will be told what you have to do.’ The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless, for though they heard the voice they could see no one. Saul got up from the ground, but even with his eyes wide open he could see nothing at all, and they had to lead him into Damascus by the hand. For three days he was without his sight, and took neither food nor drink.

A disciple called Ananias who lived in Damascus had a vision in which he heard the Lord say to him, ‘Ananias!’ When he replied, ‘Here I am, Lord’, the Lord said, ‘You must go to Straight Street and ask the house of Judas for someone called Saul, who comes from Tarsus. At this moment he is praying, having had a vision of a man called Ananias coming in and laying hands on him to give him back his sight.’

When he heard that, Ananias said, ‘Lord, several people have told me about this man and all the harm he has been doing to your saints in Jerusalem. He has only come here because he holds a warrant from the chief priests to arrest everybody who invokes your name.’ The Lord replied, ‘You must go all the same, because this man is my chosen instrument to bring my name before pagans and pagan kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he himself must suffer for my name.’ Then Ananias went. He entered the house, and at once laid his hands on Saul and said, ‘Brother Saul, I have been sent by the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on your way here so that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ Immediately it was as though scales fell away from Saul’s eyes and he could see again. So he was baptised there and then, and after taking some food he regained his strength.

He began preaching in the synagogues, ‘Jesus is the Son of God.’

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 116(117)

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

or

Alleluia!

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

or

Alleluia!

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever.

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

or

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Lk24:46,26

Alleluia, alleluia!

It was ordained that the Christ should suffer
and rise from the dead,
and so enter into his glory.

Alleluia!

Or:

Jn6:56

Alleluia, alleluia!

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me, and I live in him,
says the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:52-59

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink

The Jews started arguing with one another: ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ they said. Jesus replied:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood
has eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.
For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me
and I live in him.
As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.
This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate:
they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

He taught this doctrine at Capernaum, in the synagogue.

Prayer over the Offerings

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray,
and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice,
make of us an eternal offering to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The Crucified is risen from the dead
and has redeemed us, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery,
humbly imploring, O Lord,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in memory of him
may bring us growth in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Friday 1 May 2020

Saint Joseph the Worker

see also [Friday of the 3rd week of Eastertide](#)

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 127: 1-2

Blessed are all who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat;
blessed are you, and blessed will you be, alleluia.

Collect

O God, Creator of all things,
who laid down for the human race the law of work,
graciously grant
that by the example of Saint Joseph and under his patronage
we may complete the works you set us to do
and attain the rewards you promise.
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.

[Readings for the feria](#)

[Readings for the memorial](#)

These are the readings for the feria

This man is my chosen instrument to bring my name before the pagans

Saul was still breathing threats to slaughter the Lord's disciples. He had gone to the high priest and asked for letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, that would authorise him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way, men or women, that he could find.

Suddenly, while he was travelling to Damascus and just before he reached the city, there came a light from heaven all round him. He fell to the ground, and then he heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' he asked, and the voice answered, 'I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me. Get up now and go into the city, and you will be told what you have to do.' The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless, for though they heard the voice they could see no one. Saul got up from the ground, but even with his eyes wide open he could see nothing at all, and they had to lead him into Damascus by the hand. For three days he was without his sight, and took neither food nor drink.

A disciple called Ananias who lived in Damascus had a vision in which he heard the Lord say to him, 'Ananias!' When he replied, 'Here I am, Lord', the Lord said, 'You must go to Straight Street and ask the house of Judas for someone called Saul, who comes from Tarsus. At this moment he is praying, having had a vision of a man called Ananias coming in and laying hands on him to give him back his sight.'

When he heard that, Ananias said, 'Lord, several people have told me about this man and all the harm he has been doing to your saints in Jerusalem. He has only come here because he holds a warrant from the chief priests to arrest everybody who invokes your name.' The Lord replied, 'You must go all the same, because this man is my chosen instrument to bring my name before pagans and pagan kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he himself must suffer for my name.' Then Ananias went. He entered the house, and at once laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, I

have been sent by the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on your way here so that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ Immediately it was as though scales fell away from Saul’s eyes and he could see again. So he was baptised there and then, and after taking some food he regained his strength.

He began preaching in the synagogues, ‘Jesus is the Son of God.’

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 116(117)

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

or

Alleluia!

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

or

Alleluia!

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever.

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

or

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

Ps67:20

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Lord be blessed day after day:
he bears our burdens, God our saviour.

Alleluia!

The following reading is proper to the memorial, and must be used even if you have otherwise chosen to use the ferial readings.

Gospel

Matthew 13:54-58

A prophet is only despised in his own country

Coming to his home town, Jesus taught the people in their synagogue in such a way that they were astonished and said, 'Where did the man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? This is the carpenter's son, surely? Is not his mother the woman called Mary, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Jude? His sisters, too, are they not all here with us? So where did the man get it all?' And they would not accept him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country and in his own house', and he did not work many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

[Continue](#)

These are the readings for the memorial

[Genesis 1:26-2:3](#) Fill the earth and conquer it

[Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24](#) Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as for the Lord

First reading

Genesis 1:26-2:3

Fill the earth and conquer it

God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.'

God created man in the image of himself,
in the image of God he created him,

male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.' God said, 'See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day he had rested after all his work of creating.

[Continue](#)

First reading

Colossians 3:14-15,17,23-24

Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as for the Lord

Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as if it were for the Lord and not for men, knowing that the Lord will repay you by making you his heirs. It is Christ the Lord that you are serving.

[Continue](#)

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 89(90):2-4,12-14,16

Give success to the work of our hands, O Lord.

or

Alleluia!

Before the mountains were born
or the earth or the world brought forth,
you are God, without beginning or end.

Give success to the work of our hands, O Lord.

or

Alleluia!

You turn men back to dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.

Give success to the work of our hands, O Lord.

or

Alleluia!

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

Give success to the work of our hands, O Lord.

or

Alleluia!

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Show forth your work to your servants;
let your glory shine on their children.

Give success to the work of our hands, O Lord.

or

Alleluia!

Second reading

Colossians 3:14-15,17,23-24

Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as for the Lord

Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as if it were for the Lord and not for men, knowing that the Lord will repay you by making you his heirs. It is Christ the Lord that you are serving.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps67:20

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Lord be blessed day after day:

he bears our burdens, God our saviour.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:54-58

A prophet is only despised in his own country

Coming to his home town, Jesus taught the people in their synagogue in such a way that they were astonished and said, 'Where did the man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? This is the carpenter's son, surely? Is not his mother the woman called Mary, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Jude? His sisters, too, are they not

all here with us? So where did the man get it all?' And they would not accept him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country and in his own house', and he did not work many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

[Continue](#)

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, fount of all mercy,
look upon our offerings,
which we bring before your majesty
in commemoration of Saint Joseph,
and mercifully grant that the gifts we offer
may become the means of protection for those who call upon you.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Col 3: 17

Whatever you do in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord,
giving thanks to God through him, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Having fed upon heavenly delights,
we humbly ask you, O Lord,
that, by Saint Joseph's example,
cherishing in our hearts the signs of your love,
we may ever enjoy the fruit of perpetual peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Saturday 2 May 2020

Saint Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Get the next e-book](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Saturday 2 May 2020

Saint Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor

Lectio Divina

Introduction

Make whatever preparations you need to leave the shadow world behind and encounter the fire of the Spirit and the light of God.

If you have chosen a specific bodily position, adopt it. If you have chosen to prepare the space and the place in some way (perhaps drawing a curtain or lighting a candle), make that preparation.

Eliminate distractions and the possibility of interruption.

Sign of the Cross

We invoke God, in whose name we act and to whom we are about to open ourselves.

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

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

We invoke the Holy Spirit, who will speak to us and listen in us.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Act of Contrition

By acknowledging our sinfulness and admitting that by ourselves we can do nothing that is not flawed, we ask God to take the initiative in this encounter.

Have mercy on us, O Lord:
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy:
And grant us your salvation.

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

Amen.

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The Gospel should be read slowly, meditatively, with pauses between sentences or whenever the sense requires it. The aim is not to tell the text to God, who knows it already, but to let God tell it to us. For this, there have to be silences so that what God is telling us can be heard.

When a group is doing Lectio Divina, it is usually best to take turns in reading the words of the Gospel, since for many people speaking will bring the words to mind better than hearing does. But do not let this become a distraction in itself: have a clear order known in advance, and a simple signal for handing over the baton from one person to the next.

John 6:60-69

Who shall we go to? You are the Holy One of God

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, ‘This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?’ Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, ‘Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?’

‘It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.
The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.’

‘But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, ‘This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.’ After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘What about you, do you want to go away too?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.’

The Response

Meditatio (reflection)

What does the Gospel say to me?

God has willed me to be here, now, today, for a reason. Now is the time to reflect, and find that reason, and hear what God has chosen to tell me.

A good pattern is this:

- What has drawn my attention or struck me in some way?*
- Why? Was it a person? A word? A situation? A gesture?*
- What, therefore, is God saying to me through these words, here and now, today?*

The “I” and the “me” are important. To say “we” or “us” is to evade the encounter by softening the focus and hiding behind membership of a group. The meeting with Jesus is face to face, one to one.

The shared echo

When several people are doing Lectio together, especially if they do so regularly, then there is the opportunity for each person to share the words that have had the most impact in today’s passage, or the message it has conveyed.

There is no obligation to share an echo, and some members may take many meetings before sharing one, or may even never do so.

An echo is what struck me – not “you” or “us”. It is not a mini-sermon or a carefully crafted uplifting thought. Echoes do not have echoes. The sharing of echoes and the listening to echoes are not a discussion aiming at a conclusion, but the opening of one heart to another.

The experience of sharing echoes brings the group closer together. Over time, its power grows.

Oratio (prayer)

God has spoken to me. What do I reply?

Silently, each of us responds to what God has said to him through the passage we have read and even through the echoes we have heard.

As a matter of human practicality, one person should be responsible for deciding the time taken for silent prayer. Even better, a timer or hourglass can be used. Otherwise “Are we nearly there yet?” can be a potent distraction.

Contemplatio (contemplation)

Sometimes we may be led beyond prayer into a quiet and attentive resting in the presence of God.

Conclusion

We prepare to return to the everyday world, carrying with us what we have received in our minds and our hearts today.

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.

May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Saturday 2 May 2020

Saint Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.
And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 99 (100)

*“The Lord calls all those he has redeemed to sing a hymn of victory”
(St Athanasius).*

The Lord is the source of all wisdom: come, let us adore him, alleluia.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Go within his gates, giving thanks.
Enter his courts with songs of praise.
Give thanks to him and bless his name.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord is the source of all wisdom: come, let us adore him, alleluia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Saturday 2 May 2020

Saint Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Who are these like stars appearing,
these, before God's throne who stand?

Each a golden crown is wearing;

who are all this glorious band?

Alleluia! Hark, they sing,

praising loud their heavenly King.

Who are these of dazzling brightness,
clothed in God's own righteousness?

These, whose robes of purest whiteness,

shall their lustre still possess,

still untouched by time's rude hand?

Whence came all this glorious band?

These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on till life was ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.

These are they whose hearts were riven,
sore with woe and anguish tried,
who in prayer full oft have striven
with the God they glorified;
now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.

These, the Almighty contemplating,
did as priests before him stand,
soul and body always waiting
day and night at his command:
now in God's most holy place
blest they stand before his face.

Psalm 118 (119): 145-152
Meditating the word of the Lord in the Law

**“When anyone obeys what he has said, God's love comes to perfection
in him” (1 John 2:5)**

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Alleluia.

I call with all my heart; Lord, hear me,
I will keep your commands.
I call upon you, save me
and I will do your will.

I rise before dawn and cry for help,
I hope in your word.
My eyes watch through the night

to ponder your promise.

In your love hear my voice, O Lord;
give me life by your decrees.
Those who harm me unjustly draw near;
they are far from your law.

But you, O Lord, are close,
your commands are truth.
Long have I known that your will
is established for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Save us by the power of your hand, Father, for our enemies have ignored your words. May the fire of your word consume our sins and its brightness illumine our hearts.

Canticle

Wisdom 9

Lord, give me wisdom

“I myself will give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist” (Lk 21:15).

*Lord, you have set up your temple and altar on your holy mountain.
Alleluia.*

O God of my fathers and Lord of mercy,
who have made all things by your word;

and by your wisdom have formed man
to have dominion over the creatures you have made,
and rule the world in holiness and righteousness,
and pronounce judgement in uprightness of soul,
give me the wisdom that sits by your throne,
and do not reject me from among your servants.

For I am your slave
and the son of your maidservant,
a man who is weak and short-lived,
with little understanding of judgement and laws;
for even if one is perfect among the sons of men,
yet without the wisdom that comes from you
he will be regarded as nothing.

With you is wisdom, who knows your works
and was present when you made the world,
and who understands what is pleasing in your sight
and what is right according to your commandments.

Send her forth from the holy heavens,
and from the throne of your glory send her,
that she may be with me and toil,
and that I may learn what is pleasing to you;
for she knows and understands all things,
and she will guide me wisely in my actions
and guard me with her glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Lord, you have set up your temple and altar on your holy mountain.
Alleluia.*

Psalm 116 (117)
Praise of the merciful Lord

“I ask the nations to give praise to God for his mercy” (Rom 15:8,9).

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

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

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

Psalm-prayer

God our Father, may all nations and peoples praise you. May Jesus, who is called faithful and true and who lives with you eternally, possess our hearts for ever.

Or:

Lord God, everything you have promised has been done to show your faithfulness; and you have revealed your kindness to all peoples. Gather all nations into your Church that in all the various tongues of this world one hymn of praise may be offered you.

Short Reading

Wisdom 7:13-14

What I learned without self-interest, I pass on without reserve; I do not intend to hide her riches. For she is an inexhaustible treasure to men, and

those who acquire her win God's friendship, commended as they are to him by the benefits of her teaching.

Short Responsory

The people tell about the wisdom of the saints. Alleluia, alleluia.
– *The people tell about the wisdom of the saints. Alleluia, alleluia.*
The Church sings their praises.
– *The people tell about the wisdom of the saints. Alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *The people tell about the wisdom of the saints. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue will shine like stars for all eternity. Alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who
have instructed many in virtue will shine like stars for all eternity.
Alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

Christ, the good shepherd, laid down his life for his sheep. Let us praise him
with grateful hearts, as we pray:
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

Christ our Lord, in the holy pastors you reveal your love for us;
may we never be deprived of the care you show through them.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

Through your sacred ministers you are present in our midst as the shepherd
of our souls;
never cease to guide us through their teaching and encouragement.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

In the saints who lead your people, you manifest your power of healing
souls and bodies;
remain always with us to renew our lives in holiness.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

By the example of the saints you instruct your faithful in the ways of
wisdom and love;
through our pastors, help us grow to the full stature of perfection.
– *Lord, nourish the lives of your people.*

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.

Almighty, ever-living God and Father,
you raised up Saint Athanasius
as the great champion of your Son's divinity.
Through the doctrine and patronage of your saint, in which we rejoice,
let our knowledge and love of you grow ever deeper and stronger.
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 Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Saturday 2 May 2020

Saint Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor

(First Vespers of tomorrow, 4th Sunday of Easter)

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

The Lamb's high banquet we await,
In snow-white robes of royal state;
And now, the Red Sea's channel past,
To Christ our Prince we sing at last.

Upon the altar of the Cross
His body hath redeemed our loss;
And tasting of his scarlet blood,
Our life is hid with him in God.

Now Christ our paschal Lamb is slain,
The Lamb of God that knows no stain,
The true oblation offered here,

Our own unleavened bread sincere.

O thou, from whom hell's monarch flies,
O great, O very Sacrifice,
Thy captive people are set free,
And endless life restored in thee.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,
All glory, Lord, thy people give:
All glory, as is ever meet,
To Father and to Paraclete.

Psalm 121 (122)
Jerusalem, the holy city

“You have come to Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (Heb 12:22).

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts. Alleluia.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
‘Let us go to God's house.’
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
‘Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,

in your palaces, peace!’

For love of my brethren and friends

I say: ‘Peace upon you!’

For love of the house of the Lord

I will ask for your good.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen.

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

When you rose from the dead, Lord Jesus, you formed the Church into your new body and made of her the new Jerusalem, united in your Spirit. Give us peace in our day. Make all nations come to your Church to share your gifts in fellowship, that they may render you thanks without end and come to your eternal city.

Psalm 129 (130) Out of the depths

“He will save his people from their sins” (Mt 1:21).

In your blood, you redeemed us for God. Alleluia.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,

Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,

Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

In your blood, you redeemed us for God. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Listen with compassion to our prayers, Lord. The forgiveness of sins is yours. Do not look on the wrong we have done, but grant us your merciful kindness.

Or:

God of might and compassion, you sent your Word into the world, a watchman to announce to men the dawn of salvation. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins but listen to your Church pleading with you. Respond to her trust, and pour out in her the fullness of your redeeming grace.

Canticle

Philippians 2

Christ, God's servant

Was it not necessary that Christ should suffer thus and so enter into his glory? Alleluia.

Though he was in the form of God,
Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

He emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Was it not necessary that Christ should suffer thus and so enter into his glory? Alleluia.

Short Reading

1 Peter 2:9-10

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. Once you were not a people at all and now you are the People of God; once you were outside the mercy and now you have been given mercy.

Short Responsory

The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

They saw the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *The disciples rejoiced, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

I tell you most solemnly, the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock. He goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. Alleluia. (Year A)

Or: I am the door, says the Lord. Anyone who enters through me shall be safe and he will find a place of pasture, alleluia.

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

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

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

I tell you most solemnly, the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock. He goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. Alleluia. (Year A)

Or: I am the door, says the Lord. Anyone who enters through me shall be safe and he will find a place of pasture, alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to Christ, who rose from the dead to restore our life.
– *Ever-living Christ, hear us.*

Jesus, you are the stone rejected by the builders but you have proved to be the keystone of God's house;
make us living stones in the temple of your Church.
– *Ever-living Christ, hear us.*

You are the faithful and true witness, the first-born from the dead;
may the Church never cease to proclaim you to the world.
– *Ever-living Christ, hear us.*

Through your death and resurrection you took the Church to yourself as a bride:
cherish her, and keep her faithful, and prepare her for the day of your coming.

– *Ever-living Christ, hear us.*

You are the first and the last, you were dead and now you are alive;
may all the baptized be faithful unto death and gain the crown of glory.

– *Ever-living Christ, hear us.*

You are the light and joy of the city of God;
shine on the faithful departed that they may reign for ever.

– *Ever-living Christ, hear us.*

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.

Almighty, ever-living God,
bring us to the joy of your heavenly city:
so that we, your little flock,
may follow where Christ, our Good Shepherd,
has gone before us by the power of his resurrection.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Saturday 2 May 2020

Saint Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor

Compline (Night Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Examination of Conscience

This is an excellent moment for an examination of conscience. In a communal celebration of Compline, one of the penitential acts given in the Missal may be recited.

Hymn

Jesu, the world's redeeming Lord,
The Father's co-eternal Word,
Of light invisible true Light,
Thine Israel's Keeper day and night.

Our great Creator and our Guide,
Who times and seasons dost divide,
Refresh at night with quiet rest,
Our limbs by daily toil oppressed.

We pray thee, while we dwell below,
Preserve us from our ghostly foe;
Nor let his wiles victorious be
O'er them that are redeemed by thee.

That while in this frail house of clay
A little longer here we stay,
Our flesh in thee may sweetly sleep,
Our souls with thee their vigils keep.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be,
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 4
Thanksgiving

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me!

O men, how long will your hearts be closed,
will you love what is futile and seek what is false?

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

Fear him; do not sin: ponder on your bed and be still
Make justice your sacrifice, and trust in the Lord.

‘What can bring us happiness?’ many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

You have put into my heart a greater joy
than they have from abundance of corn and new wine.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once

for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Psalm 133 (134)
Evening prayer in the Temple

“Praise our God, all you his servants, and all who revere him, both
great and small” (Rev 19:5).

O come, bless the Lord,
all you who serve the Lord,
who stand in the house of the Lord,
in the courts of the house of our God.

Lift up your hands to the holy place
and bless the Lord through the night.

May the Lord bless you from Sion,
he who made both heaven and earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

All your servants praise and thank you, Lord. Be our light as night descends. We lift up to you the good works of our hands; grant us your generous blessing.

Or:

Where two or three gather in your name, Lord, you promised to be with them and share their fellowship. Look down upon your family gathered here in your name, and graciously pour out your blessing upon us.

Short Reading

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Short Responsory

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.

At last, all-powerful Master,

you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may
keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.*

Let us pray.

Come to visit us, Lord, this night,
so that by your strength we may rise at daybreak
to rejoice in the resurrection of Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!
has risen as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!

Regína cæli, lætare, allelúia,

quia quem meruísti portáre, allelúia,
resurréxit sicut dixit, allelúia;
ora pro nobis Deum, allelúia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Saturday 2 May 2020

Saint Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Sir 15: 5

In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth,
and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding
and clothed him in a robe of glory, alleluia.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
who raised up the Bishop Saint Athanasius
as an outstanding champion of your Son's divinity,
mercifully grant,
that, rejoicing in his teaching and his protection,
we may never cease to grow in knowledge and love of you.
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.

[Readings for the feria](#)

[Readings for the memorial](#)

These are the readings for the feria

First reading

Acts 9:31-42

The churches grew and were filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Peter visited one place after another and eventually came to the saints living down in Lydda. There he found a man called Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, 'Aeneas, Jesus Christ cures you: get up and fold up your sleeping mat.' Aeneas got up immediately; everybody who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they were all converted to the Lord.

At Jaffa there was a woman disciple called Tabitha, or Dorcas in Greek, who never tired of doing good or giving in charity. But the time came when she got ill and died, and they washed her and laid her out in a room upstairs. Lydda is not far from Jaffa, so when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men with an urgent message for him, 'Come and visit us as soon as possible.'

Peter went back with them straightaway, and on his arrival they took him to the upstairs room, where all the widows stood round him in tears, showing him tunics and other clothes Dorcas had made when she was with them. Peter sent them all out of the room and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to the dead woman and said, 'Tabitha, stand up.' She opened her eyes, looked at Peter and sat up. Peter helped her to her feet, then he called in the saints and widows and showed them she was alive. The whole of Jaffa heard about it and many believed in the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 115(116):12-17

How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?

or

Alleluia!

How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?

The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.

How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?

or

Alleluia!

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?

or

Alleluia!

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.

How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?

or

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We know that Christ is truly risen from the dead:
have mercy on us, triumphant King.

Alleluia!

Or:

cf. Jn6:63,68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

Who shall we go to? You are the Holy One of God

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, ‘This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?’ Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, ‘Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?’

‘It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.
The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.

‘But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, ‘This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.’ After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘What about you, do you want to go away too?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.’

[Continue](#)

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

1 John 5:1-5

**Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has already overcome
the world**

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ

has been begotten by God;
and whoever loves the Father that begot him
loves the child whom he begets.
We can be sure that we love God's children
if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;
this is what loving God is –
keeping his commandments;
and his commandments are not difficult,
because anyone who has been begotten by God
has already overcome the world;
this is the victory over the world –
our faith.

Who can overcome the world?
Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 36(37):3-6,30-31

The just man's mouth utters wisdom.

If you trust in the Lord and do good,
then you will live in the land and be secure.
If you find your delight in the Lord,
he will grant your heart's desire.

The just man's mouth utters wisdom.

Commit your life to the Lord,
trust in him and he will act,
so that your justice breaks forth like the light,
your cause like the noon-day sun.

The just man's mouth utters wisdom.

The just man's mouth utters wisdom
and his lips speak what is right;
the law of his God is in his heart,
his steps shall be saved from stumbling.

The just man's mouth utters wisdom.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt5:10

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy those who are persecuted
in the cause of right,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 10:22-25

The disciple is not superior to his teacher

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You will be hated by all men on account of my name; but the man who stands firm to the end will be saved. If they persecute you in one town, take refuge in the next; and if they persecute you in that, take refuge in another. I tell you solemnly, you will not have gone the round of the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

'The disciple is not superior to his teacher, nor the slave to his master. It is enough for the disciple that he should grow to be like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, what will they not say of his household?'

[Continue](#)

Prayer over the Offerings

Look, O Lord, upon the offerings we present to you
in commemoration of Saint Athanasius,
and may witnessing to your truth
bring salvation to those
who profess the same unblemished faith as him.

Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

1 Cor 3: 11

No one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there,
namely, Jesus Christ, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Grant us, we pray, almighty God,
that the true divinity of your Only Begotten Son,
which we firmly profess with Saint Athanasius,
may, through this Sacrament, ever give us life and protection.
Through Christ our Lord.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Tomorrow](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 3 May 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

[Lectio Divina](#)

[Invitatory Psalm](#)

[Morning Prayer \(Lauds\)](#)

[Vespers \(Evening Prayer\)](#)

[Compline \(Night Prayer\)](#)

[Readings at Mass](#)

[Get the next e-book](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 3 May 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

Lectio Divina

Introduction

Make whatever preparations you need to leave the shadow world behind and encounter the fire of the Spirit and the light of God.

If you have chosen a specific bodily position, adopt it. If you have chosen to prepare the space and the place in some way (perhaps drawing a curtain or lighting a candle), make that preparation.

Eliminate distractions and the possibility of interruption.

Sign of the Cross

We invoke God, in whose name we act and to whom we are about to open ourselves.

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

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

We invoke the Holy Spirit, who will speak to us and listen in us.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Act of Contrition

By acknowledging our sinfulness and admitting that by ourselves we can do nothing that is not flawed, we ask God to take the initiative in this encounter.

Have mercy on us, O Lord:
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy:
And grant us your salvation.

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

Amen.

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The Gospel should be read slowly, meditatively, with pauses between sentences or whenever the sense requires it. The aim is not to tell the text to God, who knows it already, but to let God tell it to us. For this, there have to be silences so that what God is telling us can be heard. When a group is doing Lectio Divina, it is usually best to take turns in reading the words of the Gospel, since for many people speaking will bring the words to mind better than hearing does. But do not let this become a distraction in itself: have a clear order known in advance, and a simple signal for handing over the baton from one person to the next.

John 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold

Jesus said:

‘I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.’

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life and have it to the full.’

The Response

Meditatio (reflection)

What does the Gospel say to me?

God has willed me to be here, now, today, for a reason. Now is the time to reflect, and find that reason, and hear what God has chosen to tell me.

A good pattern is this:

- What has drawn my attention or struck me in some way?*
- Why? Was it a person? A word? A situation? A gesture?*
- What, therefore, is God saying to me through these words, here and now, today?*

The “I” and the “me” are important. To say “we” or “us” is to evade the encounter by softening the focus and hiding behind membership of a group. The meeting with Jesus is face to face, one to one.

The shared echo

When several people are doing Lectio together, especially if they do so regularly, then there is the opportunity for each person to share the words that have had the most impact in today’s passage, or

the message it has conveyed.

There is no obligation to share an echo, and some members may take many meetings before sharing one, or may even never do so.

An echo is what struck me – not “you” or “us”. It is not a mini-sermon or a carefully crafted uplifting thought. Echoes do not have echoes. The sharing of echoes and the listening to echoes are not a discussion aiming at a conclusion, but the opening of one heart to another.

The experience of sharing echoes brings the group closer together. Over time, its power grows.

Oratio (prayer)

God has spoken to me. What do I reply?

Silently, each of us responds to what God has said to him through the passage we have read and even through the echoes we have heard.

As a matter of human practicality, one person should be responsible for deciding the time taken for silent prayer. Even better, a timer or hourglass can be used. Otherwise “Are we nearly there yet?” can be a potent distraction.

Contemplatio (contemplation)

Sometimes we may be led beyond prayer into a quiet and attentive resting in the presence of God.

Conclusion

We prepare to return to the everyday world, carrying with us what we have received in our minds and our hearts today.

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.

May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 3 May 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

Invitatory Psalm

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

Invitatory Psalm

Psalm 94 (95)

“Every day, as long as this ‘today’ lasts, keep encouraging one another” (Heb 3:13).

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the God who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

A mighty God is the Lord,
a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.
To him belongs the sea, for he made it
and the dry land shaped by his hands.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.

For forty years I was wearied of these people
and I said: “Their hearts are astray,
these people do not know my ways.”

Then I took an oath in my anger:
“Never shall they enter my rest.””

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 3 May 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, you should precede it with the Invitatory Psalm and omit the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky,

Heav'n thunders forth its victor cry:

The glad earth shouts her triumph high,

And groaning hell makes wild reply.

While he, the King of sovereign might,

Treads down death's strength in death's despite,

And trampling hell by victor's right,

Brings forth his sleeping saints to light.

Fast barred beneath the stone of late,

In watch and ward where soldiers wait,

Now shining in triumphant state,

He rises victor from death's gate.

Hell's pains are loosed and tears are fled:
Captivity is captive led:
The angel, crowned with light, hath said:
'The Lord is risen from the dead.'

Author of all, be thou our guide
In this our joy of Eastertide;
Whene'er assaults of death impend,
Thy people strengthen and defend.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,
All glory, Lord, thy people give:
All glory, as is ever meet,
To Father and to Paraclete.

Psalm 117 (118)
A cry of rejoicing and triumph

“This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, but which has become the cornerstone” (Acts 4:11).

I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. Alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love endures for ever.

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love endures for ever.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love endures for ever.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love endures for ever.'

I called to the Lord in my distress;
he answered and freed me.
The Lord is at my side; I do not fear.

What can man do against me?
The Lord is at my side as my helper;
I shall look down on my foes.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men;
it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

The nations all encompassed me;
in the Lord's name I crushed them.

They compassed me, compassed me about;
in the Lord's name I crushed them.

They compassed me about like bees;
they blazed like a fire among thorns.
In the Lord's name I crushed them.

I was hard-pressed and was falling,
but the Lord came to help me.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he is my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me.
The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die.

Open to me the gates of holiness:
I will enter and give thanks.
This is the Lord's own gate
where the just may enter.
I will thank you for you have answered

and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.

O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord, grant success.

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

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the Lord God is our light.

Go forward in procession with branches
even to the altar.

You are my God, I thank you.
My God, I praise you.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love endures for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord God, you have given us the great day of rejoicing: Jesus Christ, the stone rejected by the builders, has become the cornerstone of the Church, our spiritual home. Shed upon your Church the rays of your glory, that she may be seen as the gate of salvation open to all nations. Let cries of joy and

exultation ring out from her tents, to celebrate the wonder of Christ's resurrection.

Canticle

Daniel 3:52-57

Let every creature praise the Lord

“The Creator is blessed for ever” (Rom 1:25).

Blessed be your glorious and holy name. Alleluia.

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

Blest your glorious holy name.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

You are blest in the temple of your glory.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

You are blest who gaze into the depths.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

You are blest in the firmament of heaven.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

You who walk on the wings of the wind.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

May they bless you, the saints and the angels.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

From the heavens, the earth and the sea.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Blessed be your glorious and holy name. Alleluia.

Psalm 150
Praise the Lord

“Sing praise in your spirit, sing praise with your soul, that is: give glory to God in both your soul and your body” (Hesychius).

Tell the greatness of our God. The works of God are perfect and all his ways are right. Alleluia.

Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his powerful deeds,
praise his surpassing greatness.

O praise him with sound of trumpet,
praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.

O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Tell the greatness of our God. The works of God are perfect and all his ways are right. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord God, maker of heaven and earth and of all created things, you make your just one holy and you justify sinners who confess your name. Hear us as we humbly pray to you: give us eternal joy with your saints.

Or:

Lord God, through your saving plan all things are ours, and we are Christ's and Christ is yours. Accept the praises of your Church. By these praises, through Christ, with him and in him, all your honour and glory is celebrated, all-powerful Father, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Short Reading

Acts 10:40-43

God raised Jesus to life on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.

Short Responsory

Have mercy on us, Christ, Son of the living God, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Have mercy on us, Christ, Son of the living God, alleluia, alleluia.*
You have risen from the dead.
– *Have mercy on us, Christ, Son of the living God, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *Have mercy on us, Christ, Son of the living God, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

'I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe and be sure of finding pasture,' says the Lord. Alleluia. (Year A)

Or: I am the shepherd of the flock; I am the way, the truth and the life; I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

'I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe and be sure of finding pasture,' says the Lord. Alleluia. (Year A)

Or: I am the shepherd of the flock; I am the way, the truth and the life; I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to the Father, the all-powerful God, who raised up Jesus, our prince and our Saviour.

– *Glorify us, Lord, with the glory of Christ.*

Father, you brought your beloved Son from the darkness of death to the light of glory;

let us enter into the regions of your own wonderful light.

– *Glorify us, Lord, with the glory of Christ.*

You saved us through faith in Jesus Christ;

help us to live today in the grace of our baptism.

– *Glorify us, Lord, with the glory of Christ.*

You have told us to seek the things that are in heaven;

enable us to resist the attraction of sin.

– *Glorify us, Lord, with the glory of Christ.*

Reveal the riches of our hidden life in Christ

that men may see the signs of the new heaven and the new earth.

– *Glorify us, Lord, with the glory of Christ.*

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.

Almighty, ever-living God,
bring us to the joy of your heavenly city:
so that we, your little flock,
may follow where Christ, our Good Shepherd,
has gone before us by the power of his resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 3 May 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

The Lamb's high banquet we await,
In snow-white robes of royal state;
And now, the Red Sea's channel past,
To Christ our Prince we sing at last.

Upon the altar of the Cross
His body hath redeemed our loss;
And tasting of his scarlet blood,
Our life is hid with him in God.

Now Christ our paschal Lamb is slain,
The Lamb of God that knows no stain,
The true oblation offered here,
Our own unleavened bread sincere.

O thou, from whom hell's monarch flies,
O great, O very Sacrifice,
Thy captive people are set free,
And endless life restored in thee.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,
All glory, Lord, thy people give:
All glory, as is ever meet,
To Father and to Paraclete.

Psalm 109 (110)
The Messiah, king and priest

“He must be king so that he may put all his enemies under his feet” (1 Cor 15:25).

You must look for the things of heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Alleluia.

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
‘Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet.’

The Lord will wield from Sion
your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.
‘You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old.’

The Master standing at your right hand
will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*You must look for the things of heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's
right hand. Alleluia.*

Psalm-prayer

Father, we ask you to give us victory and peace. In Jesus Christ, our Lord
and King, we are already seated at your right hand. We look forward to
praise you in the fellowship of all your saints in our heavenly homeland.

Or:

Almighty God, bring the kingdom of Christ, your anointed one, to its
fullness. May the perfect offering of your Son, eternal priest of the new
Jerusalem, be offered in every place to your name and make all nations a
holy people for you.

Psalm 111 (112) How blessed are the just

*“Be like the children of the light; for the fruits of the light are seen in
complete goodness and right living and truth” (Eph 5:8,9).*

He has risen as a light in the darkness, for the upright of heart. Alleluia.

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.
The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
grinds his teeth and fades away;
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

He has risen as a light in the darkness, for the upright of heart. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord God, you are the eternal light which illumines the hearts of good people. Help us to love you, to rejoice in your glory, and so to live in this world as to avoid harsh judgement in the next. May we come to see the light of your countenance.

Or:

Lord Jesus, you are the light rising in darkness for the just. To show your love for us you offered yourself in our place as a victim to God. Teach us to love one another as you love us, that our love may bring peace and joy to the world and enable us to find the happiness of your home.

Canticle

(Apocalypse 19)

The wedding of the Lamb

Alleluia. Victory and glory and power to our God! Alleluia.

Alleluia.

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
his judgements are true and just.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

Praise our God, all you his servants,
you who fear him, small and great.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns,
let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

The marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.

Alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Alleluia. Victory and glory and power to our God! Alleluia.

Short Reading

Hebrews 10:12-14

Christ has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place forever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying.

Short Responsory

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia, alleluia.

– *The Lord has truly risen, alleluia, alleluia.*

He has appeared to Simon.

– *The Lord has truly risen, alleluia, alleluia.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *The Lord has truly risen, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

I am the good shepherd. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full. Alleluia. (Year A)

Or: The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; and I, the Lord, know them, alleluia.

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

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

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*I am the good shepherd. I have come so that they may have life and have it
to the full. Alleluia. (Year A)*

*Or: The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; and I, the Lord, know
them, alleluia.*

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to God the Father, who raised Jesus to life and exalted him at
his own right hand.

– *Lord, protect your people through the glory of Christ.*

Father, through the victory of the cross you have lifted up Jesus from the
earth;

may he draw all men to himself.

– *Lord, protect your people through the glory of Christ.*

Through the exaltation of Christ send your Spirit into the Church;
make her the sign of unity for the whole human family.

– *Lord, protect your people through the glory of Christ.*

You have become the Father of men through water and the Spirit;
keep them faithful to their baptism until they enter eternal life.
– *Lord, protect your people through the glory of Christ.*

Through the exaltation of your Son raise up the sorrowful, set prisoners
free, heal the sick;
may the whole world rejoice in your wonderful gifts.
– *Lord, protect your people through the glory of Christ.*

You nourished the faithful departed with Christ's body and blood;
let them share in his glory on the day of resurrection.
– *Lord, protect your people through the glory of Christ.*

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.

Almighty, ever-living God,
bring us to the joy of your heavenly city:
so that we, your little flock,
may follow where Christ, our Good Shepherd,
has gone before us by the power of his resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 3 May 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

Compline (Night Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Examination of Conscience

This is an excellent moment for an examination of conscience. In a communal celebration of Compline, one of the penitential acts given in the Missal may be recited.

Hymn

Jesu, the world's redeeming Lord,
The Father's co-eternal Word,
Of light invisible true Light,
Thine Israel's Keeper day and night.

Our great Creator and our Guide,
Who times and seasons dost divide,
Refresh at night with quiet rest,
Our limbs by daily toil oppressed.

We pray thee, while we dwell below,
Preserve us from our ghostly foe;
Nor let his wiles victorious be
O'er them that are redeemed by thee.

That while in this frail house of clay
A little longer here we stay,
Our flesh in thee may sweetly sleep,
Our souls with thee their vigils keep.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be,
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Psalm 90 (91)
The protection of the Most High

“Behold, I have given you power to tread under foot both serpents and scorpions” (Lk 10:19).

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: ‘My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!’

It is he who will free you from the snare
of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;
he will conceal you with his pinions
and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand fall at your right,
you, it will never approach;
his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look
to see how the wicked are repaid,
you who have said: 'Lord, my refuge!'
and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you,'
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of life I will content him;
I shall let him see my saving power.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, when tempted by the devil, you remained loyal to your Father whose angels watched over you at his command. Guard your Church and keep us safe from the plague of sin so that we may remain loyal to the day we enjoy your salvation and your glory.

Short Reading

Apocalypse 22:4-5

They will see the Lord face to face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. It will never be night again and they will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will be shining on them. They will reign for ever and ever.

Short Responsory

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth, alleluia, alleluia.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.

At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may
keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace. Alleluia.*

Let us pray.

God our Father,
as we have celebrated today the mystery of the Lord's resurrection,
grant our humble prayer:
free us from all harm
that we may sleep in peace
and rise in joy to sing your praise.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!
has risen as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!

Regína cæli, lætare, allelúia,
quia quem meruísti portáre, allelúia,
resurréxit sicut dixit, allelúia;
ora pro nobis Deum, allelúia.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Sunday 3 May 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Colour: White.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 32: 5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Acts 2:14,36-41

'God has made him both Lord and Christ'

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22(23)

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

or

Alleluia!

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

or

Alleluia!

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

or

Alleluia!

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

or

Alleluia!

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

or

Alleluia!

Second reading

1 Peter 2:20-25

You have come back to the shepherd of your souls

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold

Jesus said:

‘I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.’

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life and have it to the full.’

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

[Today](#) · [Yesterday](#) · [Next e-book](#) · [Table of Contents](#)

Next e-book

Your current e-book ends on Sunday 3 May 2020.

You created this e-book yourself, by using the Universalis program for Windows. You can create a new e-book in the same way.

1. On your computer, open the Universalis program.
2. Use the menu command File > Create e-book.
3. Follow the instructions on the screen.

For more details, including how to get the created e-book onto your e-reader, [see the instructions on our web site](#).