

Tuesday in the 3rd Week of Easter

28 April 2020

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Rev 19:5, 12:10

Sing praise to our God,
all you who fear God, small and great,
for now salvation and strength have come,
and the power of his Christ, alleluia.

Greeting

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

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also with you.

Christ is risen, alleluia.

He is risen indeed, alleluia.

Penitential Act

Let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows.

Lord Jesus, you raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring light to those in darkness:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Hymn of Praise

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.**

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

Collect

Let us pray.

O God, you 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, that 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. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 7.51-8.1a

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Stephen said to the people, the elders, and the scribes: “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always oppose the Holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They put to death those who foretold the coming of the righteous one, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become. You received the law as transmitted by angels, but you did not observe it.”

When they heard this, they were infuriated, and they ground their teeth at him. But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and Stephen said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out in a loud voice, covered their ears, and rushed upon him together. They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses laid down their cloaks at the feet of a

young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them”; and when he said this, he fell asleep.

Now Saul was consenting to his execution.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

from Ps 31. **℟.** v.6a

℟. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Be my rock of refuge,
a stronghold to give me safety.
You are my rock and my fortress;
for your name’s sake you will lead and guide me. **℟.**

Into your hands I commend my spirit;
you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.

My trust is in the LORD;
I will rejoice and be glad of your mercy. **℟.**

Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your kindness.
You hide them in the shelter of your presence
from the plottings of men. **℟.**

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 6.35

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the bread of life, says the Lord.
Those who come to me will never be hungry;
those who believe in me will never thirst.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6.30-35

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The crowd said to Jesus: “What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” So Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” So they said to Jesus, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pause to reflect on the Word.

Today's Gospel reading follows on from the miraculous feeding of the five thousand. The minds of the crowd were clearly still on this miracle, and inevitably their thoughts turned to the manna in the wilderness. They could hardly help connecting the two things. The manna had always been regarded as the bread of God (Psalm 78:24; Exodus 16:15); and there was a strong rabbinic belief that when the Messiah came he would again give the manna. The giving of the manna was held to be the supreme work in the life of Moses and the Messiah was bound to surpass it.

The crowds here are challenging Jesus to produce bread from God in order to substantiate his claims. They did not regard the bread which had fed the five thousand as bread from God; it had begun in earthly loaves and issued in earthly loaves. The manna, they held, was a different thing and a real test.

Jesus' answer was twofold. First, he reminded them that it was not Moses who had given them the manna; it was God. Second, he told them that the manna was not really the bread of God; it was only the symbol of the bread of God. The bread of God was he who came down from heaven and gave men not simply satisfaction from physical hunger, but life. Jesus was claiming that the only real satisfaction was in him.

The final words of the reading begin one of the great passages of John's Gospel, and indeed of the New Testament. "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

"I am the bread of life." Let us analyse it step by step: (i) Bread sustains life. It is that without which life cannot go on. (ii) But what is life? Clearly by life is meant something far more than mere physical existence. So what is this new spiritual meaning of life? (iii) Real life is the new relationship with God, that relationship of trust and obedience and love of which we have already thought. (iv) That relationship is made possible only by Jesus Christ. Apart from him no one can enter into it. (v) That is to say, without Jesus there may be existence, but not life. (vi) Therefore, if Jesus is the essential of life, he may be described as the bread of life. The hunger of the human situation is ended when we know Christ and through him know God. The restless soul is at rest; the hungry heart is satisfied.

Prayers of the People

Pray for the world and the church.

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

God's Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

When all is prepared, the Priest says,

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

**May the Lord accept our sacrifice
for the praise and glory of God's name,
for our good, and the good of all God's holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
these offerings from 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. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, faithful God,
always and everywhere,
for with your only begotten Son and life-giving Spirit,
you are the one true God
from everlasting to everlasting.

At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing
a universe of beauty and splendour,
bringing light from darkness
and order from chaos.

You formed us, male and female, in your image,
and endowed us with creative power.

We turned away from you but you did not abandon us.
You called us by name and searched us out,
making a covenant of mercy,
giving the law, and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you,
joining with your faithful people of every time and place,
singing the eternal song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

When the fullness of time was come,
you sent your Son to be born of Mary.

Bright image of your glory,
he learnt obedience to you in all things,
even to death on a cross,
breaking the power of evil,
freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight.

You raised him from death,
exalting him to glory,
and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed
your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends,
his companions on the way.
While at table he took bread,
blessed, and broke it,
and giving it to them, said:
'Take, eat; this is my body.'

He took a cup of wine,
and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said,
'This is my blood of the covenant
which is poured out for many.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command,
we remember his life of obedience to you,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and exaltation,
and his promise to be with us for ever.
With this bread and this cup
we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Dying you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
and send your Holy Spirit
upon us and our celebration
that all who eat and drink at this table
may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood
to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people,
may we proclaim the everlasting gospel
of Jesus Christ our Lord,
through whom, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Saviour against us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

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

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

The celebrant breaks the bread, saying –

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

While the bread is broken Agnus Dei is sung –

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

Invitation to Communion

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

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Rom 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. **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Blessing and Dismissal

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you what is pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.