

Tuesday in the 6th Week of Easter
Celebration of the Word and Spiritual Communion

19 May 2020

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Christ is risen, alleluia.
He is risen indeed, alleluia.

Introduction

We gather to be the Church of Christ.
Christ is with us, as he promised:
present in the assembly of his people,
in the proclamation of God's word,
and in the Communion of his Body and Blood.

Let us reflect on the word and pray together
and then make our Spiritual Communion,
uniting ourselves wholly to Christ
from whom we are never separated.

Penitential Act

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

A brief pause for silence follows.

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.

Grant, almighty and merciful God,
that we in truth receive a share
in the Resurrection of 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 16:22-34

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The crowd in Philippi joined in the attack on Paul and Silas, and the magistrates had them stripped and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After inflicting many blows on them, they threw them into prison and instructed the jailer to guard them securely. When he received these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and secured their feet to a stake.

About midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God as the prisoners listened, there was suddenly such a severe earthquake that the foundations of the jail shook; all the doors flew open, and the chains of all were pulled loose. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted out in a loud voice, "Do no harm to yourself; we are all here." He asked for a light and rushed in and,

trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved.” So they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his house. He took them in at that hour of the night and bathed their wounds; then he and all his family were baptised at once. He brought them up into his house and provided a meal and with his household rejoiced at having come to faith in God.

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

Responsorial Psalm

From Ps 138 **R.** v.7c

R. You stretch out your hand and save me, Lord.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,
or you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple,
and give thanks to your name. **R.**

Because of your kindness and your truth,
you have made great above all things
your name and your promise.
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me. **R.**

Your right hand saves me.
The LORD will complete what he has done for me;
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 16.7, 13

Alleluia, alleluia!

I will send you the Spirit of truth, says the Lord;
he will lead you to the complete truth.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 16.5-11

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.”

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

We have here an almost perfect summary of the work of the Spirit.

(i) The Holy Spirit will convict – and it is helpful here to note that the Greek word means not only *convict*, but *convince* – the people of sin. When the Jews crucified Jesus, they did not believe that they were sinning; they believed that they were serving God. But when the story of that crucifixion was later preached, they were pricked in their heart (Acts 2:37). They suddenly had the terrible conviction that the crucifixion was the greatest crime in history and that their sin had caused it. What is it that gives a sense of sin? What is it that abases a person in face of the Cross? It is the work of the Holy Spirit.

(ii) The Holy Spirit will convict/convince the people of righteousness. It becomes clear what this means when we see that it is Jesus Christ's righteousness of which the people will be convinced. Jesus was crucified as a criminal; tried; found guilty; regarded by the Jews as an evil heretic, and by the Romans as a dangerous character; given the punishment that the worst criminals had to suffer; branded as a felon and an enemy of God. What changed that? What made people see in this crucified figure the Son of God, as the centurion saw at the Cross (Matthew 27:54) and Paul on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-9)? It is amazing that people should put their trust for all eternity in a crucified Jewish criminal. It is the work of the Holy Spirit, who convinces us of the sheer righteousness of Christ, backed by the fact that Jesus rose again and went to his Father.

(iii) The Holy Spirit convicts/convinces the people of judgment. On the Cross evil stands condemned and defeated. What makes a person feel certain that judgment lies ahead? It is the work of the Holy Spirit, who gives us the inner and unshakeable conviction that we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

(iv) There remains one thing which at the moment John does not go on to mention. When we are convicted of our own sin, when we are convinced of Christ's righteousness, when we are convinced of judgment to come, what gives us the certainty that in the Cross of Christ is our salvation and that with Christ we are forgiven, and saved from judgment? This, too, is the work of the Holy Spirit, who convinces us and makes us sure that in this crucified figure we can find our Saviour and our Lord. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and convinces us of our Saviour.

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 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.**

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.

Silence

A period of reflection is appropriate, so that all may praise God in silent prayer.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Concluding Prayer

May your healing work, O Lord,
free us, we pray, from doing evil
and lead us to what is right.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

Regina Coeli

**Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluia!
He whom thou was meet to bear, alleluia!
As he promised hath arisen, alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia!**

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God,
Who gave joy to the world
through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
grant we pray, that with his mother, the Virgin Mary,
we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.
Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**