

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.



May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer; you are seated
at the right hand of the Father
have mercy on us;
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us
all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body
alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things
that are yours. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Wisdom 6: 12 - 16

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes
herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly
leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are
worthy of her

and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 62:2-8

R. For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

- 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. [R]
- 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. [R]
- 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. [R]
- 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. [R]



SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (*Shorter form 4:13-14)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.
*We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about
those who have died, to make sure that you do not
grieve about them, like the other people who have
no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again,
and that it will be the same for those who have died
in Jesus: God will bring them with him.* We can tell
you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of
us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not
have any advantage over those who have died. At
the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will
call out the command and the Lord himself will come
down from heaven; those who have died in Christ
will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are
still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together
with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay
with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these
you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour when the Son
of Man is coming. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 25: 1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom
of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their
lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them
were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones
did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas
the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their
lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew
drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a
cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him."
At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed
their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible
ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going



focus on sunday

(Prisoners' Sunday)

We are called to follow Jesus. We are called in a way that will
prepare us for heaven and our eternal life of friendship with God.

out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

**All bow for following two lines:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from
the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
catholic Church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of
the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord,
upon the sacrificial gifts offered here,
that, celebrating in mystery the Passion
of your Son, we may honour it with loving
devotion. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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



Our lives can sometimes be seen like swimming
in the sea. We set out aiming for a particular
point but then the current takes hold, we lose
sight of that point and we get swept off course.
As Christians what is our focal point?

For the Christian that is Jesus and his love, love of God and of
others. The gospel today is about waiting for the Lord.

The foolish girls took their eyes off the Master. Like swimming and
losing their way.

There are many ways of keeping focus in our lives – family, love
and love of God. Prayer is one way of keeping this depth in our
lives. In a speedy world it can be hard to find time to pray.

Prayer is more than a Facebook message or a few words on
twitter. Just like love, it takes time. Just happy sometimes to be
there; praying a rosary, breathing in the life of God, reading some
scripture, listening to some music.

Prayer is the oil in the lamp. Love is the flame, the light and the
energy of our lives. Prayer is keeping the light going. It opens
us to the greatest gift of all, the gift of God's love, received and
offered.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

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