

# The People's Mass

## THE BLESSING OF CANDLES AND THE PROCESSION

### Antiphon

Behold, our Lord will come with power,  
to enlighten the eyes of his servants, alleluia.

*The Priest greets the people and blesses the candles,  
saying:*

Let us pray.

O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, in answer to your people's prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing ☩ these candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The Priest sprinkles the candles with holy water. He takes the lighted candle prepared for him and the procession begins with the acclamation:*

Let us go in peace to meet the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

*All carry lighted candles. As the procession moves forward, the following Antiphon or another appropriate chant is sung.*

### Antiphon

(Lk 2:29-32)

A light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace,  
in accordance with your word. (Ant.)

For my eyes have seen your salvation. (Ant.)

Which you have prepared in the sight  
of all peoples. (Ant.)

*As the procession enters the church, the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass is sung. The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said or sung and the Mass continues in the usual manner.*

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 47:10-11)

Your merciful love, O God,  
we have received in the midst of your temple.  
Your praise, O God, like your name,  
reaches the ends of the earth;  
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

### 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,

not made, consubstantial with the Father; /  
through him all things were made. / For us men  
and for our salvation / he came down from  
heaven,

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
and became man, all bow.*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary, / and became man. / For our sake  
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, / he  
suffered death and was buried, / and rose again  
on the third day / in accordance with the  
Scriptures. / He ascended into heaven / and is  
seated at the right hand of the Father. / He will  
come again in glory / to judge the living and the  
dead / and his kingdom will have no end. / I  
believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of  
life, / who proceeds from the Father and the  
Son, / who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified, / who has spoken through the  
prophets. / I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church. / I confess one Baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins / and I look forward to the  
resurrection of the dead / and the life of the world  
to come. Amen.

*The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), ...

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good and the good of all his  
holy Church.

### Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

### Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. ...

### After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.

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

## THE COMMUNION RITE

Behold the Lamb of God, ...

Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.

### Communion Antiphon

(Lk 2:30-31)

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you  
prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

who had been held in slavery all their lives by the  
fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took  
to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham.  
It was essential that he should in this way become  
completely like his brothers so that he could be a  
compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's  
religion, able to atone for human sins. That is,  
because he has himself been through temptation he  
is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Lk 2:32)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The light to enlighten the Gentiles  
and give glory to Israel, your people.  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL (Shorter Form)

(Lk 2:22-40)

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid  
down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took  
him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord –  
observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord:  
Every first-born male must be consecrated to the  
Lord and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with  
what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-  
doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there  
was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and  
devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting  
and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been  
revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not  
see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the  
Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple  
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to  
do for him what the Law required, he took him into  
his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,  
just as you promised; because my eyes have seen  
the salvation which you have prepared for all the  
nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and  
the glory of your people Israel.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, / the Father almighty, /  
maker of heaven and earth, / of all things visible  
and invisible. / I believe in one Lord Jesus  
Christ, / the Only Begotten Son of God, / born of  
the Father before all ages. / God from God, Light  
from Light, / true God from true God, / begotten,

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.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

(MI 3:1-4)

A reading from the prophet Malachi.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my  
messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord  
you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and  
the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for,  
yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will  
be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will  
remain standing when he appears? For he is like the  
refiner's fire and the fullers' alkali. He will take his  
seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of  
Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then  
they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be  
made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then  
be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the  
years of old.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 23:7-10)

☩ Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.

- O gates, lift up 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. ☩

### SECOND READING

(Heb 2:14-18)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since all the children share the same blood and  
flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his  
death he could take away all the power of the devil,  
who had power over death, and set free all those

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