

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon *(Cf. Is 30:19-30)*

O People of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart. In the name of the Father, ... Amen.
The grace of our Lord ... And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters), ...

A brief pause for silence follows.

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,

And, striking their breast, they say:

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 is not said.)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *(Is 11:1-10)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats

straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *(Ps 71:1-2.7-8.12-13.17)*

R In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R**
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R**
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R**
4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **R**

SECOND READING *(Rm 15:4-9)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans. Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory

(contd on back page.)

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, 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

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

Communion Antiphon *(Bar 5:5; 4:36)*

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Lk 3:4.6)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *(Mt 3:1-12)*

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

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

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.