

No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of woman, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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, 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. 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.**

**After the Consecration**

The mystery of faith.

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

## THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...

**For the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, ...

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated Host the following is sung or said:*

**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.**

*Showing the Host to the people, the priest says:*

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**

(Cf. Is 35:4)

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Entrance Antiphon**

(Phil 4:4-5)

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.**

In the name of the Father, ...

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord ...

**And with your spirit.**

**Penitential Act**

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

Lord, have mercy.

**Or: Kyrie, eleison.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Or: Kyrie, eleison.**

You came to call sinners:

Christ, have mercy.

**Or: Christe, eleison.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Or: Christe, eleison.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy.

**Or: Kyrie, eleison.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Or: Kyrie, eleison.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,

and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

*(The Gloria is not said.)*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING**

(Is 35:1-6.10)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy in their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

(Ps 145:6-10)

**☩ Come, Lord, and save us.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **☩**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **☩**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **☩**

**SECOND READING**

(Jas 5:7-10)

A reading from the letter of St James.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgements yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(Is 61:1)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.**

**He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.**

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

(Mt 11:2-11)

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze?

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