

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and prince of peace: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

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 ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 5:1-3

A reading from the 2nd book of Samuel.

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said, 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people, Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel." ' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord and they anointed David king of Israel.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 121: 1-5

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say 'Let us go to God's house.'

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **[R]**

2. Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. **[R]**

3. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **[R]**

SECOND READING Colossians 1:12 - 20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers - all things were created through him and for him.

Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity.

Now the Church is his body, he is its head.

As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 23. 35 - 43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The people stayed there before the Cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

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



focus on sunday

The Cross is a Throne and the Man hanging there is a King! That is the Christ who turns all earthly values upside down. He is a king, not through wealth or reputation, but because he is a Man of compassion and of mercy, of justice brought to death. He is King of Creation and Son of God.



Today you will be with me in Paradise



In a homily, many years ago I heard the words: "The cross is a throne and the man on it is a king". What strange words the onlookers standing at the foot of the cross would have heard - "Jesus remember me", "today,

you will be with me in Paradise" or "father forgive them". A simple prayer from the thief, who in his final hour comes to see the truth, the confident promise of salvation and the humble prayer, once requested, that we too will be forgiven as was the "good thief". The King of the Universe but always the Good Shepherd.

Look who His companions were on death row! A thief who was resentful and mocking, a thief who was hopeful. One looked back, the other forward. They represent the choice we all face between letting ourselves be trapped by past wrongs or moving forward seeking and being granted forgiveness.

The thief called him by name, an intimate moment for two men who were losing their lives. In that moment the thief saw that through Jesus he could find eternal life. The king on the cross who is 'the way, the truth and the life.' The king who will save us from sin, from meaninglessness. They wanted him to come down and save them; he saved us by staying there and forgiving everyone in mercy.

This is love to the end, the love that is the root of mercy.

We are bigger than our past, our mistakes, our transgressions, our infidelities. To the end his faithful onlookers knew He had not wavered from His mission to love and forgive and care for the others till the last breath.

Lord Jesus, may your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger.

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,

All bow for following three lines:

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.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice by which the human race is reconciled to you, we humbly pray, that your Son himself may bestow on all nations the gifts of unity and peace. 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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly Kingdom. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.