

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!**

## PENITENTIAL RITE

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

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, .....

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING *Exodus 19:2-6*

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp. Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying; 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You

yourself have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps. 99:2-3, 5*

**R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. [R]
2. Know that he, the Lord is God. He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock. [R]
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age [R]

### SECOND READING *Romans 5:6-11*

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.**

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord. I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL *Matthew 9:36-10:8*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the



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We are called to be members of God's own holy people. Today God is sending us out as witnesses for him.

the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

**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

#### AFTER THE CONSECRATION

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.



Jesus preached the Kingdom of God and, in doing so, challenged the fixed attitudes, mind-sets and practices of good, God-fearing, religious persons, and revealed to them a new understanding of who God is and what God wants. The result was opposition, rejection and death. The apostles, too, were given the task of going out and proclaiming the Kingdom of God. And they also discovered that doing so was seriously harmful to their health! The Church, today, is in crisis and the God which the Church had been proclaiming has been rejected by many. That God was a God whose passion was the observance of the law, expressed in rigid moral demands. Salvation, we were told, comes from observing the law. Pope Francis is calling us back to the God proclaimed by Jesus, a God whose passion is compassion, who reached out to the poor, the infirm, the excluded and to sinners. He healed lepers by touching them, an act of solidarity with those whom society shunned.

Pope Francis has a special concern for refugees, who are, for some, the lepers of today. Like Jesus, he too faces opposition from those whose fixed attitudes and mind-sets he challenges. Compassion is the ethos of the Kingdom of God and the door by which we enter it. Salvation, Pope Francis insists, comes from compassion. We, Christians, have been given the task of proclaiming the Kingdom of God today. We can only proclaim the God of compassion by being the compassion of God to others.

Fr. Peter McVerry SJ