

Suggested Opening Song: Now Thank We All Our God, #197

At the Last Supper, knowing that he would soon be leaving the company of his disciples, Jesus assures them that the Father would send another Advocate to remain with them always. They would never be orphans, he promises them, because this Advocate—the Holy Spirit—would remain with them and in them. For many of us, our mothers also advocate for us and remain in us, even if they have passed away. On this Mother’s Day, as we celebrate our mothers and those who have been a mother to us over the years, let us pray that the Holy Spirit bless them now and always.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 22

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, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he 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.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 8

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

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, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Opening Prayer:

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honor of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 208

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing. For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured. There was great joy in that city.

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

R/. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

R/. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth, sing praise to the glory of his name; proclaim his glorious praise. Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds!" **R/.**

"Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you, sing praise to your name!"
Come and see the works of God, his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam. **R/.**

He has changed the sea into dry land; through the river they passed on foot;
therefore let us rejoice in him. He rules by his might forever. **R/.**

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare what he has done for me.
Blessed be God who refused me not my prayer or his kindness! **R/.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

1 Peter 3:15-18

Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

John 14:15-21

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

- The parable of the Good Samaritan tells us everything we need to know about the low opinion the Jewish people of Jesus' day had for Samaritans. When Jesus wanted to teach them how wide the definition of neighbor is when commanding them to love their neighbor as themselves, he chose a Samaritan to illustrate his point. Philip learned the lesson well, for soon after being chosen as a deacon he set out for Samaria to preach the Good News and heal those who were sick in mind, body, or spirit. Not only that, the apostles Peter and John made haste to lay their hands on the Samaritans that Philip baptized to ensure that they had received the Holy Spirit. As we will hear when we celebrate the Ascension, Jesus commanded his disciples to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth, to all peoples everywhere. With love and the Spirit, they put Jesus' command into action.
- Peter warns us in the second reading that doing good may cause us to be maligned, ridiculed, or persecuted. This is not the time to give up! This is the time to recall that Jesus can empathize with us, for he suffered unto death while doing good in order to save us from our sins and lead us to salvation. As Jesus "was brought to life in the Spirit," may the Holy Spirit bring life to our lives (1 Peter 3:18), enhancing them with a lasting joy that transcends suffering.
- The Holy Spirit binds us together with one another and with the Lord. Witness how anxious Peter and John were to lay hands on the newly-baptized in Samaria. The journeys present-day bishops make to parishes to anoint those making their confirmation recall this practice of the early church. These bishops were chosen by the pope, by successors of the first pope, Saint Peter, who was entrusted to that role by Jesus himself and who we see today making the journey to Samaria himself to impart the Holy Spirit to the faithful. Bound together across space and time by the Holy Spirit, we can claim a brotherhood and sisterhood with the first apostles.

Question of the Week

How can the kind of joy that the Holy Spirit brings enable me to endure suffering?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Jesus promised that he would not leave us orphans, and so as children of God we give voice to our needs and the needs of our sisters and brothers everywhere.

- For the Church, that we may continue to reach out to people in great need, as Philip did in Samaria, and respond enthusiastically to those in need of the Spirit, as Peter and John did in the first century, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That the world may come to know the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth, who remains in us and guides us to salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For children living in poverty or want, in abusive or traumatic situations, or who have lost one or both parents, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For mothers and all those who have taken upon that role, that they may always find blessing in those they have cared for and nurtured, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That, as we heard in the second reading, we may kindly and gently explain to anyone who asks us for a reason for our hope, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you sent the Holy Spirit to remain with us always. May the truth the Spirit brings embolden us to proclaim your love through the way we act and live. Hear this and all our prayers through the one who promised to never leave us orphaned, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 54

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

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.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

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

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us, ✠ protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested Closing Song: Christ Has No Body Now But Yours, #222