

At this time of year, when flowers are blooming and daylight is lengthening and nature is full of life, it feels as though God's creation has been reborn. During the Easter season we recall that we ourselves have been reborn in baptism. Today's Gospel reminds us that Jesus dwells within us. Not only that, the Holy Spirit is with us, too. Therefore, when we look around, we can see the full flowering of the divine in ourselves, in each other, and in the whole world. Truly, let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

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

Profession of Faith: Page 102

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 for ever.

Blessed be God for ever.

Penitential Rite:

My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, you suffered for our sins and opened the way to eternal life: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you were put to death and released us from the power of sin and death: Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you sent the Holy Spirit to be our advocate and guide: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive 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, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading Page 40

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 Page 40

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 Page 42

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 Page 42

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:

Last week we heard that Philip was one of the disciples chosen to assist the Twelve in their mission, preaching the word and serving the poor. Today we hear what Philip accomplished. He journeyed from Jerusalem, where Christians met with persecution, to Samaria, where he met with such support that the author of Acts remarks on the great joy he brought to the whole city. Samaritans of Samaria and Jews of Judea were unified in Christ. What's more, Peter and John joined Philip, demonstrating the solidarity between the original apostles and the later disciples. All this is wrapped up in the unity of God, as exemplified by the presence of both the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit in all who had been baptized.

In the Gospel, Jesus promises the Twelve that he will not leave them orphans. Another Advocate will be with them always. The Greek word *parakletos*, also translated as "Paraclete," refers to one who defends or pleads the cause of someone at trial. In the trials of our lives, the Holy Spirit assists us, defending us from harm and guiding us along the right way.

Jesus, of course, was the first Advocate whom God sent to us. Last week we heard Jesus tell his disciples that he would prepare a dwelling place for them. Now he tells them that this dwelling place is much closer than they expect. "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20). Jesus has chosen us as his dwelling place. Jesus' place is within us, within each other.

Question - In the second reading, Peter tells his readers that they should "always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope" (1 Peter 3:15). Can I explain to others, "gently and reverently," why I hope?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Jesus told his disciples that he is in them and in his Father as well. Therefore, we can be assured that we have a direct way to bring our prayers before God.

- For the Church, that like the early disciples we will boldly proclaim the Christ to others, revealing the movement of the Holy Spirit through our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those in public office, that they may respond with assistance and compassion to the difficult situations and issues that confront them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That we may carry Christ in our hearts, willing to suffer for doing good in the world today, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For students who are graduating this year, that they may take pride in their success and look forward to using their knowledge and talents in the next chapter of their lives, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all those who are having difficulty discerning their purpose or calling, that they may recognize the Holy Spirit's movement in their lives, 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.**

O God, your Son suffered and died for our sins so that he might lead us to you. Help us to follow him always as we entrust our needs to you. We ask this in his name, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: Page 134

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.

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 bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ! **Thanks be to God.**