ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage and govern them for ever.

GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have 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. Christ, 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, almighty Father, have mercy on us. Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 68:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

R. In your great love, answer me, O God.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother’s sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me. (R)

2. This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me. (R)

3. The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revile; for the Lord listens to the prayer of the poor and does not spurn his servants in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures.

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death spread through the whole world, just as death through the one sinner entered the world through the one sinless human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of ‘law-breaking’, yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself certainly outweighed the fault. For the fault was that through one man’s fall so many died it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to all the world to save as many as an abundant free gift. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:26-33

The Lord be with you and with your spirit A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord. Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.’ ‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid: you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

‘So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.’

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

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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who is with us all the time, everyday, everywhere. We ask Jesus to let His Spirit of Love shine through our hearts, when we help others at home, share with others and never forget to say Thanks, Praise and Sorry, and have a smile for people.

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......

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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

THE SIGN OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And with your spirit.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,.....

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and in your faithfulness the earth is beset.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE

I the Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his Name and the good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and prayer that cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you. Amen.

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.

Pray brothers and sisters....

‘In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails....’

Be proud of Jesus! In the gospel today Jesus says not to be ashamed of him or the word of God. We often say to someone, ‘I was really proud of you’; at other times we find ourselves standing up for an individual or groups of people who are being criticised. Jesus knows that in following him, we will find opposition, in what we might sometimes say or in our way of life. A person, young or old, may find themselves the only one in a family group who is a regular massgoer, or who stands up for himself in a moral issue.

We find support in like-minded and like-believing people, or in people who may disagree with us but respect our point of view. We find support also in our practice of faith where we meet such people, also in prayer; as Jesus says, ‘every hair of your head has been counted’ by the Father who knows us and loves us through and through.

We have a lot to be proud of in Jesus: his love and concern for all, especially the poor; his giving us a meaning in life, and his love which brought him against the powerful, even to death. Like Jesus, we too will find ‘the Lord at our side’ as the first reading proclaims, as we live our Christian life as best we can.

‘In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails....’

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

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