



The Sacramentary

Volume Two
Part 1

T H E
S A C R A M E N T A R Y
VOLUME TWO — WEEKDAYS

THE ROMAN MISSAL
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THE
SACRAMENTARY

VOLUME TWO — WEEKDAYS

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EDITORIAL NOTE

In this edition prepared for the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales, Ireland, and Scotland musical settings of texts have been omitted except where necessary. This includes the following sections: the majority of 'Musical Setting of the Order of Mass and Music Settings from the Appendix. Though the pages have been omitted the pagination allows for their eventual inclusion.

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Prot. CD 000/00

DECREE OF PROMULGATION
BY THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

DECREE

CONGREGATION FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
AND THE
DISCIPLINE OF THE SACRAMENTS

Prot. CD 000/00

DECREE



THE LITURGICAL CELEBRATION

INTRODUCTION TO WEEKDAY CELEBRATIONS

This pastoral introduction is offered as a supplement to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal and the General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar. It presumes these documents and is in no way intended to replace them. The pastoral introduction cannot be read apart from them.

1 Whenever the Christian community gathers to celebrate the eucharist, it shows forth the death and resurrection of the Lord in the hope of his glorious coming. While the Sunday assembly is the clearest sign of the paschal mystery, the faithful are invited to take part in Mass often on weekdays as well, even daily.¹

2 The daily worship of the Church, however, comprises not only the eucharist but also the Liturgy of the Hours: its purpose is to sanctify each day and the whole range of human activity. The Liturgy of the Hours extends to the different hours of the day the praise and thanksgiving, the memorial of the mysteries of salvation, the petitions and the foretaste of heavenly glory that are present in the eucharistic mystery. Like other liturgical services, the Liturgy of the Hours pertains to the whole body of the Church and so, wherever possible, the more important hours may be celebrated in common in parish churches. The Liturgy of the Hours is recommended to laypeople whenever they gather together and is entrusted in a special way to priests, deacons, and members of religious communities.²

- In particular, if circumstances require, the Liturgy of the Hours may be joined to the celebration of weekday eucharist. On other occasions in parishes, it may be celebrated instead of eucharist, for example, when a priest is not available.³

3 The weekday gathering for eucharist will usually be smaller than the Sunday assembly and the celebration will be less solemn. Weekday Mass therefore may be less formal, more intimate in tone, and simpler in style. The nature of the group and the circumstances of the celebration may necessitate some adaptation of the usual way of celebrating, as in the case, for example, of Masses with children.⁴

4 The special character of weekday Mass should enhance and never diminish the full and active participation of all those present. They have an individual right and duty to contribute their participation in ways differing according to the diversity of their order and liturgical function.

- Though simpler than the Sunday Mass, weekday Masses should involve a full complement of ministers in proclaiming the word, leading the psalm, speaking the intercessions, preparing the gifts, and ministering communion.
- Even at weekday Mass, great importance should be attached to the use of music and the singing of the parts of the Mass. Such enhancement is not reserved only to more solemn occasions, but will be especially appropriate during the major liturgical seasons.

¹ See Congregation of Rites, Instruction *Eucharisticum mysterium*, 25 May 1967, nos. 25, 29.

² See General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours (hereafter, GILH), nos. 10-12, 20-22, 27-30.

³ See GILH, nos. 93-99.

⁴ See Congregation for Divine Worship, Directory for Masses with Children, 1 November 1973 (hereafter, DMC).

- Since there usually is only one reading before the gospel, the chants between the readings may be contracted. Outside Lent it is permitted “to use either the psalm with *Alleluia* as the response, or the responsorial psalm followed by the *Alleluia* with its verse, or just the psalm, or just the *Alleluia*.” In Lent, “either the responsorial psalm or the verse before the gospel may be used.”⁵
- A homily, be it brief, is strongly recommended on weekdays, especially the weekdays of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter and on other occasions when people come in considerable numbers.⁶ Ritual and other special Masses deserve a homily as an integral part of the celebration.
- The breaking of the bread and the sharing of the one cup take on a special significance at weekday Masses if smaller numbers permit all those present to share in the one bread and the one cup.
- Some churches have a smaller chapel where weekday Masses are celebrated. This should be worthy and arranged to facilitate the liturgy. A chapel designed for the reservation of the eucharist is arranged for private prayer and adoration and may not respond to the demands of good liturgical celebration. For example, it is more in keeping with the nature of the celebration that there be no reservation of the sacrament at the altar from the beginning of Mass. The eucharistic presence of Christ is the effect of the celebration and should appear as such. When Mass is celebrated, the principal ways in which Christ is present in the Church emerge clearly one after the other: first in the assembly, then in his word, also in the person of the presiding priest, and finally in the eucharistic elements.⁷

THE SEASONS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

5 *Advent* has a twofold character which is reflected in the two-part structure of the season. Until 16 December, the liturgy is directed to the second coming of Christ at the end of time. Watching in joyful expectation, God’s people look forward to the time “when Christ will come again in majesty and glory” (Preface of Advent I). The period from 17 December till Christmas eve is more directly a time of preparation for the celebration of Jesus’ birth, the first coming of God’s Son. The liturgical texts recall the circumstances of his birth and invite us to prepare for it with joy, “our hearts filled with wonder and praise” (Preface of Advent II).⁸

- On weekdays, in the first period of Advent, the great prophesies of Isaiah and the story of John the Baptist are read, and the prayers tend to express both the historical and the eschatological dimensions of the

⁵ General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 1975 (hereafter, GIRM), no. 38:1 and 2.

⁶ See GIRM, nos. 41, 42; see The Roman Missal, *Lectionary for Mass*, 2nd English edition, 1981, Introduction (hereafter, LM), no. 25.

⁷ See The Roman Ritual, *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass*, 1974, General Introduction, nos. 6, 9.

⁸ See Congregation of Rites, General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, 21 March 1969 (hereafter, GNLYC), nos. 39, 42; see LM, no. 94.

season. In the second, more intensive phase of Advent, each day is provided with proper prayers looking forward to the coming feast, and the liturgy climaxes in the gospel accounts of the events preceding Christ's birth, introduced by the sublime, messianic gospel verses that are taken from the "Great Antiphons" (O Antiphons) and are sung at Mass with the *Alleluia* before the gospel reading.

- The weekdays from 17 December to 24 December inclusive take precedence over obligatory memorials.⁹

6 *Christmas* is a celebration of the revelation of God in the flesh that extends from The Birth of the Lord until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The feast of Christmas has its own octave, during which the feasts of Saint Stephen (26 December), Saint John (27 December), and the Holy Innocents (28 December) are celebrated. These saints are seen as having a particular relation to the Christmas mystery and are traditionally honoured as "companions of Christ." The octave day itself, 1 January, is observed as the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The celebration of Christmas also includes the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. This short but diverse season commemorates the incarnation and the revelation of this mystery to the world. It marks the beginning of the whole mystery of salvation in Christ.

7 *Lent* is a time of preparation for Easter. It is a penitential season marked by prayer, meditation on the Scriptures, fasting, almsgiving, and works of charity. For those chosen to be initiated at the Easter Vigil, it is a time of purification and enlightenment. For those who are full members of the community of faith, it offers opportunities for penitence and baptismal renewal. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues until Holy Thursday when, in the evening, the Easter Triduum commences with the Mass of the Lord's Supper.¹⁰

- Ash Wednesday, a day of fast and abstinence, sets the tone for Lent through the call to turn away from sin and to be faithful to the gospel. Ashes, a stark sign of lenten penance, are placed on those who come forward either during the eucharist or after a Liturgy of the Word. The priest, the deacon, or designated layperson may distribute the ashes. The ashes come from the branches blessed the preceding year for Passion Sunday. Because of the pastoral benefit for the people of the blessing of the ashes, it is preferable that ashes be blessed on each occasion that they are to be distributed.
- Penitential services and the celebration of the sacrament of penance bring the faithful to repentance. Further, the celebration of weekday Mass in Lent is an eminently suitable way to pray and listen to the Scriptures. When meeting with the elect, however, other forms of prayer, for example, the Liturgy of the Hours or a liturgy of the word, would be more appropriate. Some special rites may be celebrated with the elect on the weekdays of Lent, notably the Presentation of the Creed and of the Lord's Prayer.

⁹ See GIRM, no. 316:1; see GNLYC, no. 16:2.

¹⁰ See GNLYC, no. 28.

- Ash Wednesday and the weekdays of Holy Week take precedence over all feasts and solemnities; only feasts and solemnities take precedence over the other weekdays of Lent.¹¹
- Toward the end of Lent, the bishop, surrounded by the local Church, consecrates the chrism and blesses the oils in a special Mass.

8 *Easter* is a celebration of the Lord's passover through death to risen life. It lasts for fifty days. It is a festive season when all rejoice and sing *Alleluia*. The Easter candle, symbol of the risen Lord, is lighted at the daily liturgy until Pentecost. The Acts of the Apostles, read at weekday Masses, tells of the witness of the early Church to the resurrection and of the Church's life and growth in the Spirit; the Gospel of John highlights the centrality of the paschal mystery in the Church's life.

- The first eight days (the octave) centre on the Lord's post-resurrection appearances and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord. They can offer special occasions for mystagogical catechesis. On the fortieth day after Easter, the Ascension is celebrated (if it is not a holyday of obligation, it is transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter).¹²

9 *Ordinary Time* completes the yearly cycle. It invites the Church to appreciate the ministry and message of Christ in all its aspects. Those who regularly take part in the weekday Masses in Ordinary Time will have opened up more lavishly for them the treasures of holy Scripture, and, with a greater hunger for the word of God aroused in them, they will be nourished more each day by the words of the Lord. For this reason the lectionary for the weekdays of Ordinary Time provides semi-continuous gospel readings from the Synoptic Gospels extending over one year and semi-continuous readings from the Old Testament and the apostles extending over a two-year cycle.

- The weekdays of Ordinary Time are regularly taken up by the celebration of solemnities and feasts and are combined with the memorials of saints. Should more than one optional memorial fall on the same day, only one of them is celebrated. Votive Masses, Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, and Masses for the Dead may also be used from time to time.¹³

CHOICE OF TEXTS FOR WEEKDAY MASSES

10 Special presidential prayers are given for each weekday in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Unless a solemnity, feast, or memorial takes precedence, these texts should normally be used, as also the proper seasonal prefaces.

11 The choice of presidential prayers for weekdays in Ordinary Time is vast. The priest may freely choose any of the prayers from the thirty-four weeks in Ordinary Time, the prayers of an optional memorial or the Mass of a saint inscribed in the martyrology for that day (possibly using texts from the appropriate commons),

¹¹ See GNLYC, no. 16:1, 2.

¹² See GNLYC, nos. 24-25.

¹³ See GNLYC, nos. 14, 16.

the prayers from the Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, a Votive Mass, or a Mass for the Dead.¹⁴ (Ritual Masses should be used only when the rites themselves are celebrated.¹⁵) Sometimes the priest will choose an entire formulary, sometimes just the opening prayer from one of the formularies given. The Prefaces of Ordinary Time I-VIII and the Prefaces for General Use I-VII may be used for weekdays in Ordinary Time. Other suitable prefaces may also be chosen.

12 This rich collection of texts makes possible a variety of themes for prayer that are suited to the liturgical assembly and adapted to its needs and those of the rest of the Church and the world. In planning the celebration, including the choice of texts, the priest considers first and foremost the general spiritual good of the assembly rather than his personal outlook. He should remember that the choices are to be made in consultation with the ministers and others who have a function in the celebration, including the faithful in regard to the parts which more directly belong to them.¹⁶

- To facilitate the use of a variety of texts, the prayers for Ordinary Time in this edition of the Sacramentary have been arranged in two ways: (a) a four-week cycle of prayers and (b) a general collection of opening prayers, prayers over the gifts, prayers after communion for careful selection.
- *Ritual Masses* and the corresponding readings from the lectionary may be used (when the rites themselves are celebrated) on any day except the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, on solemnities, Ash Wednesday, the weekdays of Holy Week, the octave of Easter, and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls).¹⁷ On these days the Mass of the day is celebrated, but the solemn blessing proper to the ritual may be used. If the ritual Mass is not used on a day on which it is permitted, one of the readings of the ritual Mass may nonetheless be used.
- The Mass texts provided in *Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions* enable the celebration to take account of the different circumstances of the Christian life and the specific needs of the Church, both local and universal, and of the world. They may be used as circumstances arise or at fixed times but should be used sparingly, that is, when the occasion requires. They may replace an obligatory memorial only when required by some real need or pastoral advantage. The colour of the day or season is used, though violet may be chosen if the Mass has a penitential character.¹⁸

¹⁴ See GIRM, no. 316; see Congregation for Divine Worship, Instruction *Liturgicae instaurationes*, 5 September 1970, no. 3:4.

¹⁵ See GIRM, nos. 330, 334.

¹⁶ See GIRM, nos. 313, 323.

¹⁷ See GIRM, no. 330.

¹⁸ See GIRM, nos. 326-334.

- Likewise, *Votive Masses* are options provided in favour of the faithful's devotion, but should not be used automatically on fixed days of the week.¹⁹
- *Masses for the Dead* in particular should be used sparingly since every Mass is offered for both the living and the dead, and there is a remembrance of the dead in each eucharistic prayer.²⁰
- Even with such a large choice of texts available, the priest may sometimes need to adapt prayers. In prayers for the dead, for example, besides adapting the texts for gender and number, inappropriate words should be omitted depending on the circumstances in which they are used. Likewise, in Masses with children the prayers may be adapted to children's needs so that they become an expression of their own life and religious experience.²¹
- For the liturgy of the word, the lectionary provides readings for each day of every week throughout the year, texts which are used for the most part unless a solemnity or feast occurs. Often the lectionary provides a semi-continuous cycle for the first reading and gospel. It is important to respect this pattern, so that the faithful who hear the word of God proclaimed day after day may receive an ordered unfolding of the message of the various books. On memorials of saints, therefore, it is better to use the weekday readings unless certain proper readings are assigned, such as on memorials of saints mentioned in the Scriptures themselves (for example, Mary Magdalene). For Votive Masses or Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, though the special readings in the lectionary may sometimes be appropriate, it is again often better to use the weekday readings.²²
- When the continuous reading is interrupted during a particular week, the priest should take the entire week's plan of readings into consideration and then may combine readings, or transfer readings to a different day, if necessary omitting the less significant selections.²³

PROPER OF SAINTS

13 The celebration of the paschal mystery of Christ's passion, death, resurrection, and glorification lies at the centre of the liturgical year. For this reason the minds of the faithful must be directed primarily toward those feasts of the Lord on which the mysteries of salvation are celebrated in the course of the year. Accordingly, the Proper of Seasons is given precedence over the feasts of saints, in order that the entire cycle of the mysteries of salvation may be celebrated in the measure due to them.²⁴

¹⁹ See GIRM, no. 329:3.

²⁰ See GIRM, no. 316:3.

²¹ See DMC, no. 51.

²² See GIRM, no. 319; see LM, nos. 82, 83.

²³ See GIRM, no. 319; see LM, no. 82.

²⁴ See Vatican Council II, Constitution on the Liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 4 December 1963 (hereafter, SC), art. 108.

- Certain feasts of the Lord are found in the Proper of Saints rather than in the Proper of Seasons since they are attached to particular days, for example, the Presentation of the Lord (2 February), the Annunciation of the Lord (25 March), the Transfiguration of the Lord (6 August), the Holy Cross (14 September). Because they celebrate particular aspects of the mystery of our redemption in Christ, they are linked to the temporal cycle and should be celebrated with fitting solemnity even when they occur on weekdays.

14 “In celebrating this annual cycle of Christ’s mysteries, the Church honours with special love the blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son. In her the Church holds up and admires the most excellent effect of the redemption and joyfully contemplates, as in a flawless image, that which the Church itself desires and hopes wholly to be.”²⁵

- The liturgical calendar appropriately and closely integrates the commemoration of Mary into the cycle of her Son’s mysteries. The major feasts of Mary clearly manifest a primary Christological dimension: Mary, Mother of God (1 January), the Visit of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth (31 May), the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven (15 August), the Birth of the Virgin Mary (8 September), the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (8 December). The Church again and again rejoices in the motherhood of Mary as it reflects on the mystery of the incarnation of the eternal Son of God.
- Mary is also commemorated in a special way even in the seasonal cycle, notably on the Sundays and weekdays before Christmas as well as throughout the season of Christmas. In addition an optional memorial of the blessed Virgin Mary may be observed on Saturdays in Ordinary Time when there is no obligatory memorial.²⁶

15 “The Church has also included in the annual cycle days devoted to the memory of the martyrs and the other saints. Raised up to perfection by the manifold grace of God and already in possession of eternal salvation, they sing God’s perfect praise in heaven and offer prayers for us. By celebrating their passage from earth to heaven, the Church proclaims the paschal mystery achieved in the saints, who have suffered and been glorified with Christ; it proposes them to the faithful as examples drawing all to the Father through Christ and pleads through their merits for God’s favours.” Thus “the feasts of the saints proclaim the wonderful works of Christ in his servants and display to the faithful fitting examples for their imitation.”²⁷

16 Lest the feasts of the saints take precedence over the feasts commemorating the very mysteries of salvation, only those saints of universal significance are commemorated by the whole Church and others are left to particular Churches, nations, or religious families.²⁸ A special place is given in the calendar to the feasts of the apostles, the holy men and women of the New Testament, the martyrs, and the saints of the Church of Rome.

²⁵ SC, art. 103.

²⁶ See GNLYC, no. 15.

²⁷ SC, art. 104, 111.

²⁸ See SC, art. 111.

- The planning for the celebration of the feasts of the saints must take into account several basic principles, among which are the nature of the liturgical season as well as the needs, religious preparation, and aptitude of the participants.²⁹
- These choices should be made with the primacy of the season in mind and should be based on the spiritual good of the faithful. The priest especially should avoid imposing his own personal preferences upon the people. In particular he should not omit the readings assigned for each day in the weekday lectionary too frequently or without sufficient reason, since the Church desires that a richer portion of God's word be provided for the people.³⁰
- Eucharistic Prayer I may be used appropriately on the solemnity, feast, or memorial of those saints who are mentioned in it. The name of the saint of the day or the patron saint of the place may be included at the appropriate place in Eucharistic Prayer III.
- The saints of the calendar have been provided with brief biographical notes. These place the saint in a historical context and indicate ways in which they may serve as models for the Christian life. These notes can be of help in introducing the liturgy of the day, in preaching on the readings, and in making the general intercessions. They are not suitable to be read out in the form given.

SOLEMNITIES, FEASTS, AND MEMORIALS

17 The different types of celebration are distinguished from each other by their importance and are accordingly called solemnities, feasts, or memorials.³¹ The rank of the celebrations is indicated for each day. If there is no indication, the celebration is an optional memorial.

- *Solemnities* are the days of greatest importance and begin with Evening Prayer the preceding day. They are provided with an entire proper Mass and sometimes their own vigil Mass.³² The *Gloria* is appropriate as the opening rite and the Creed is used. Solemnities can be celebrated on any day except the Easter Triduum, the Birth of the Lord, the Epiphany of the Lord, the Ascension of the Lord, and Pentecost Sunday; the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter; Ash Wednesday, the weekdays of Holy Week, and the octave of Easter. A solemnity which is impeded by one of these days is transferred to the closest day which is not a feast or a Sunday.³³
- *Feasts* are celebrated within the limits of a natural day.³⁴ They also are provided with an entire proper Mass. When a feast of the Lord (the Presentation of the Lord, the Transfiguration of the Lord, the Holy

²⁹ See GIRM, no. 313.

³⁰ See GIRM, no. 316:3.

³¹ See GNLYC, no. 10.

³² See GNLYC, no. 11.

³³ See GNLYC, nos. 59, 60.

³⁴ See GNLYC, no. 13.

Cross, the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome) is celebrated on a Sunday in Ordinary Time, the prayers proper to that feast are used. All feasts may be celebrated on weekdays, except on Ash Wednesday, the weekdays of Holy Week, and the octave of Easter.

- *Memorials* are either obligatory or optional. Obligatory memorials are celebrated as given in the calendar. However, obligatory memorials falling during the season of Lent are celebrated only as optional memorials. Optional memorials may be celebrated, as desired, but not on Ash Wednesday, in Holy Week, or the octave of Easter. On the weekdays of Advent from 17 December to 24 December, during the octave of Christmas, and on the weekdays of Lent, the opening prayer may be that of the optional memorial. On the remaining weekdays of the year, the weekday Mass or the optional memorial may be celebrated.³⁵
- Memorials usually do not have a complete Mass formulary. In most cases only an opening prayer is given. The remaining texts may be chosen from the weekday Mass or the appropriate common. For the seasons of Advent, Lent, and Easter, texts are appropriately taken from the weekday Mass of the season. The preface may be from those which correspond to the saint (for example, pastor, virgin, martyr), from those indicated for weekdays, or any other appropriate preface.
- The Masses in the Proper of Saints may be celebrated as Votive Masses, except where special Votive Masses are already provided. The texts from the Proper of Saints may need to be adapted for use in a Votive Mass.
- If reference is made to more than one common, one or the other may be used according to pastoral need. In addition to the commons which express a special characteristic holiness (for example, of martyrs, virgins, or pastors), the texts from the common of holy men and women, referring to holiness in general, may always be used. For example, if a saint is both a martyr and bishop, either the common of martyrs or the common of pastors or the common of holy men and women may be used. The prayers from the commons may need to be adapted in number and gender.

³⁵ See GNLYC, no. 14; see GIRM, no. 316.



THE LITURGICAL YEAR

CALENDAR

When no rank is given for the celebration, it is an optional memorial.

JANUARY

1	Mary, Mother of God (Octave of Christmas)	solemnity
2	Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors of the Church	memorial
6	The Epiphany of the Lord (or Sunday between 2 January and 8 January)	solemnity
7	Raymond of Penyafort, presbyter, religious	
13	Hilary, bishop, doctor of the Church	
17	Anthony, abbot	memorial
20	Fabian, pope, martyr Sebastian, martyr	
21	Agnes, virgin, martyr	memorial
22	Vincent, deacon, martyr	
24	Francis de Sales, bishop, religious founder, doctor of the Church	memorial
25	The Conversion of Paul, apostle	feast
26	Timothy and Titus, bishops	memorial
27	Angela Merici, virgin, religious founder, educator	
28	Thomas Aquinas, presbyter, religious, doctor of the Church	memorial
31	John Bosco, presbyter, religious founder, educator	memorial
	The Baptism of the Lord (Sunday after 6 January or Sunday after the Epiphany of the Lord)	feast

FEBRUARY

2	The Presentation of the Lord	feast
3	Blase, bishop, martyr Ansgar, bishop, missionary	
5	Agatha, virgin, martyr	memorial
6	Paul Miki, religious, missionary, martyr, and his Companions, martyrs	memorial
8	Jerome Emiliani, educator, religious founder	
10	Scholastica, virgin, religious	memorial
11	Our Lady of Lourdes	
14	Cyril, religious, missionary, and Methodius, bishop, missionary	memorial
17	Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, religious	
21	Peter Damian, bishop, religious, doctor of the Church	
22	The Chair of Peter, apostle	feast
23	Polycarp, bishop, martyr	memorial

MARCH

4	Casimir	
7	Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs	memorial
8	John of God, religious founder	
9	Frances of Rome, married woman, religious founder	
17	Patrick, bishop, missionary	
18	Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, doctor of the Church	
19	Joseph, Husband of the Virgin Mary	solemnity
23	Toribio de Mogrovejo, bishop	
25	The Annunciation of the Lord	solemnity

APRIL

2	Francis of Paola, hermit, religious founder	
4	Isidore, bishop, doctor of the Church	
5	Vincent Ferrer, presbyter, religious, missionary	
7	John Baptist de la Salle, presbyter, religious founder, educator	memorial
11	Stanislaus, bishop, martyr	memorial
13	Martin I, pope, martyr	
21	Anselm, bishop, religious, doctor of the Church	
23	George, martyr Adalbert, bishop, religious, martyr	
24	Fidelis of Sigmaringen, presbyter, religious, martyr	
25	Mark, evangelist	feast
28	Peter Chanel, presbyter, religious, missionary, martyr Louis Marie de Montfort, presbyter	
29	Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor of the Church	memorial
30	Pius V, pope, religious	

MAY

1	Joseph the Worker		
2	Athanasius, bishop, doctor of the Church		memorial
3	Philip and James, apostles		feast
12	Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs Pancras, martyr		
14	Matthias, apostle		feast
18	John I, pope, martyr		
20	Bernardine of Siena, presbyter, religious, missionary		
25	Bede the Venerable, presbyter, religious, doctor of the Church Gregory VII, pope, religious Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, virgin, religious		
26	Philip Neri, presbyter		memorial
27	Augustine of Canterbury, bishop, religious, missionary		
31	The Visit of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth		feast
	The Holy Trinity (First Sunday after Pentecost)		solemnity
	The Body and Blood of Christ (Thursday or Sunday after Holy Trinity)		solemnity
	The Sacred Heart of Jesus (Friday following Second Sunday after Pentecost)		solemnity
	The Immaculate Heart of Mary (Saturday following Second Sunday after Pentecost)		memorial

JUNE

1	Justin, martyr	memorial
2	Marcellinus and Peter, martyrs	
3	Charles Lwanga, catechist, martyr, and his Companions, martyrs	memorial
5	Boniface, bishop, religious, missionary, martyr	memorial
6	Norbert, bishop, religious founder	
9	Ephrem of Syria, deacon, doctor of the Church	
11	Barnabas, apostle	memorial
13	Anthony of Padua, presbyter, religious, doctor of the Church	memorial
19	Romuald, abbot, religious founder	
21	Aloysius Gonzaga, religious	memorial
22	Paulinus of Nola, bishop John Fisher, bishop, martyr, and Thomas More, married man, martyr	
24	The Birth of John the Baptist	solemnity
27	Cyril of Alexandria, bishop, doctor of the Church	
28	Irenaeus, bishop, martyr	memorial
29	Peter and Paul, apostles	solemnity
30	The First Martyrs of Rome	

JULY

3	Thomas, apostle	feast
4	Elizabeth of Portugal, married woman, queen	
5	Anthony Mary Zaccaria, presbyter, religious founder	
6	Maria Goretti, virgin, martyr	
11	Benedict, abbot, religious founder	memorial
13	Henry, married man, ruler	
14	Camillus de Lellis, presbyter, religious founder	
15	Bonaventure, bishop, religious, doctor of the Church	memorial
16	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	
21	Lawrence of Brindisi, presbyter, religious, doctor of the Church	
22	Mary Magdalene, disciple of the Lord	memorial
23	Bridget of Sweden, married woman, religious founder	
25	James, apostle	feast
26	Joachim and Ann, parents of the Virgin Mary	memorial
29	Martha, disciple of the Lord	memorial
30	Peter Chrysologus, bishop, doctor of the Church	
31	Ignatius of Loyola, presbyter, religious founder	memorial

AUGUST

1	Alphonsus Mary Liguori, bishop, religious founder, doctor of the Church	memorial
2	Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop Peter Julian Eymard, presbyter, religious founder	
4	John Mary Vianney, presbyter	memorial
5	The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary in Rome	
6	The Transfiguration of the Lord	feast
7	Sixtus II, pope, martyr, and his Companions, martyrs Cajetan, presbyter, religious founder	
8	Dominic, presbyter, religious founder	memorial
10	Lawrence, deacon, martyr	feast
11	Clare, virgin, religious founder	memorial
13	Pontian, pope, martyr, and Hippolytus, presbyter, martyr	
14	Maximilian Mary Kolbe, presbyter, religious, martyr	memorial
15	The Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven	solemnity
16	Stephen of Hungary, married man, ruler	
19	John Eudes, presbyter, religious founder, educator	
20	Bernard, abbot, doctor of the Church	memorial
21	Pius X, pope	memorial
22	The Queenship of the Virgin Mary	memorial
23	Rose of Lima, virgin	
24	Bartholomew, apostle	feast
25	Louis of France, married man, ruler Joseph Calasanz, presbyter, religious founder, educator	
27	Monica, married woman	memorial
28	Augustine, bishop, doctor of the Church	memorial
29	The Martyrdom of John the Baptist	memorial

SEPTEMBER

3	Gregory the Great, pope, religious, doctor of the Church	memorial
8	The Birth of the Virgin Mary	feast
9	Peter Claver, presbyter, religious	
13	John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor of the Church	memorial
14	The Holy Cross	feast
15	Our Lady of Sorrows	memorial
16	Cornelius, pope, martyr, and Cyprian, bishop, martyr	memorial
17	Robert Bellarmine, bishop, religious, doctor of the Church	
19	Januarius, bishop, martyr	
20	Andrew Kim Taegon, presbyter, martyr, Paul Chong Hasang, catechist, martyr, and their Companions, martyrs	memorial
21	Matthew, apostle, evangelist	feast
26	Cosmas and Damian, martyrs	
27	Vincent de Paul, presbyter, religious founder	memorial
28	Wenceslaus, ruler, martyr Lawrence Ruiz, married man, martyr, and his Companions, martyrs	
29	Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, archangels	feast
30	Jerome, presbyter, doctor of the Church	memorial

OCTOBER

1	Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin, religious, doctor of the Church	memorial
2	The Guardian Angels	memorial
4	Francis of Assisi, religious founder	memorial
6	Bruno, presbyter, hermit, religious founder	
7	Our Lady of the Rosary	memorial
9	Denis, bishop, martyr, and his Companions, martyrs John Leonardi, presbyter, religious founder	
14	Callistus I, pope, martyr	
15	Teresa of Jesus, virgin, religious, doctor of the Church	memorial
16	Hedwig, married woman, religious Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin, religious	
17	Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr	memorial
18	Luke, evangelist	feast
19	John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, presbyters, religious, missionaries, martyrs, and their Companions, martyrs Paul of the Cross, presbyter, religious founder	
23	John of Capestrano, presbyter, religious, missionary	
24	Anthony Mary Claret, bishop, religious founder	
28	Simon and Jude, apostles	feast

NOVEMBER

1	All Saints	solemnity
2	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed	
3	Martin de Porres, religious	
4	Charles Borromeo, bishop	memorial
9	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome	feast
10	Leo the Great, pope, doctor of the Church	memorial
11	Martin of Tours, bishop	memorial
12	Josaphat, bishop, religious, martyr	memorial
15	Albert the Great, bishop, religious, doctor of the Church	
16	Margaret of Scotland, married woman, queen Gertrude the Great, virgin, religious	
17	Elizabeth of Hungary, married woman, religious	memorial
18	The Dedication of the Basilicas of the Apostles Peter and Paul in Rome	
21	The Presentation of the Virgin Mary	memorial
22	Cecilia, virgin, martyr	memorial
23	Clement I, pope, martyr Columban, abbot, missionary	
24	Andrew Dung-Lac, presbyter, martyr, and his Companions, martyrs	memorial
30	Andrew, apostle	feast
	Christ the King (Last Sunday in Ordinary Time)	solemnity

DECEMBER

3	Francis Xavier, presbyter, religious, missionary	memorial
4	John of Damascus, presbyter, religious, doctor of the Church	
6	Nicholas, bishop	
7	Ambrose, bishop, doctor of the Church	memorial
8	The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary	solemnity
11	Damasus I, pope	
12	Jane Frances de Chantal, married woman, religious founder	
13	Lucy, virgin, martyr	memorial
14	John of the Cross, presbyter, religious, doctor of the Church	memorial
21	Peter Canisius, presbyter, religious, doctor of the Church	
23	John of Kanty, presbyter	
25	The Birth of the Lord	solemnity
26	Stephen, first martyr	feast
27	John, apostle, evangelist	feast
28	The Holy Innocents, martyrs	feast
29	Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr	
31	Sylvester I, pope	
	The Holy Family (Sunday within the octave of the Birth of the Lord or, if there is no Sunday within the octave, 30 December)	feast

TABLE OF PRINCIPAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

Year	LECTIONARY CYCLE		Ash	Easter	Ascension	Pentecost	Body and Blood
	Sunday	Weekday	Wednesday		Thursday		of Christ
1998	C	II	25 Feb	12 Apr	21 May	31 May	11 June
1999	A	I	17 Feb	4 Apr	13 May	23 May	3 June
2000	B	II	8 Mar	23 Apr	1 June	11 June	22 June
2001	C	I	28 Feb	15 Apr	24 May	3 June	14 June
2002	A	II	13 Feb	31 Mar	9 May	19 May	30 May
2003	B	I	5 Mar	20 Apr	29 May	8 June	19 June
2004	C	II	25 Feb	11 Apr	20 May	30 May	10 June
2005	A	I	9 Feb	27 Mar	5 May	15 May	26 May
2006	B	II	1 Mar	16 Apr	25 May	4 June	15 June
2007	C	I	21 Feb	8 Apr	17 May	27 May	7 June
2008	A	II	6 Feb	23 Mar	1 May	11 May	22 May
2009	B	I	25 Feb	12 Apr	21 May	31 May	11 May
2010	C	II	17 Feb	4 Apr	13 May	23 May	3 June
2011	A	I	9 Mar	24 Apr	2 June	12 June	23 June
2012	B	II	22 Feb	8 Apr	17 May	27 May	7 June
2013	C	I	13 Feb	31 Mar	9 May	19 May	30 May
2014	A	II	5 Mar	20 Apr	29 May	8 June	19 June
2015	B	I	18 Feb	5 Apr	14 May	24 May	4 June
2016	C	II	10 Feb	27 Mar	5 May	15 May	26 May
2017	A	I	1 Mar	16 Apr	25 May	4 June	15 June
2018	B	II	14 Feb	1 Apr	10 May	20 May	31 May
2019	C	I	6 Mar	21 Apr	30 May	9 June	20 June
2020	A	II	26 Feb	12 Apr	21 May	31 May	11 June
2021	B	I	17 Feb	4 Apr	13 May	23 May	3 June
2022	C	II	2 Mar	17 Apr	26 May	5 June	16 June
2023	A	I	22 Feb	9 Apr	18 May	28 May	8 June
2024	B	II	14 Feb	31 Mar	9 May	19 May	30 May
2025	C	I	5 Mar	20 Apr	29 May	8 June	19 June
2026	A	II	18 Feb	5 Apr	14 May	24 May	4 June
2027	B	I	10 Feb	28 Mar	6 May	16 May	27 May
2028	C	II	1 Mar	16 Apr	25 May	4 June	15 June
2029	A	I	14 Feb	1 Apr	10 May	20 May	31 May
2030	B	II	6 Mar	21 Apr	30 May	9 June	20 June

Year	LECTIONARY CYCLE Sunday Weekday		WEEKS IN ORDINARY TIME				First Sunday of Advent
			<i>before season of Lent</i>		<i>after season of Easter</i>		
			Number of Weeks	Ending	Beginning	Week Number	
1998	C	II	7	24 Feb	1 June	9	29 Nov
1999	A	I	6	16 Feb	24 May	8	28 Nov
2000	B	II	9	7 Mar	12 June	10	3 Dec
2001	C	I	8	27 Feb	4 June	9	2 Dec
2002	A	II	5	12 Feb	20 May	7	1 Dec
2003	B	I	8	4 Mar	9 June	10	30 Nov
2004	C	II	7	24 Feb	31 May	9	28 Nov
2005	A	I	5	8 Feb	16 May	7	27 Nov
2006	B	II	8	28 Feb	5 June	9	3 Dec
2007	C	I	7	20 Feb	28 May	8	2 Dec
2008	A	II	4	5 Feb	12 May	6	30 Nov
2009	B	I	7	24 Feb	1 June	9	29 Nov
2010	C	II	6	16 Feb	24 May	8	28 Nov
2011	A	I	9	8 Mar	13 June	11	27 Nov
2012	B	II	7	21 Feb	28 May	8	2 Dec
2013	C	I	5	12 Feb	20 May	7	1 Dec
2014	A	II	8	4 Mar	9 June	10	30 Nov
2015	B	I	6	17 Feb	25 May	8	29 Nov
2016	C	II	5	9 Feb	16 May	7	27 Nov
2017	A	I	8	28 Feb	5 June	9	3 Dec
2018	B	II	6	13 Feb	21 May	7	2 Dec
2019	C	I	8	5 Mar	10 June	10	1 Dec
2020	A	II	7	25 Feb	1 June	9	29 Nov
2021	B	I	6	16 Feb	24 May	8	28 Nov
2022	C	II	8	1 Mar	6 June	10	27 Nov
2023	A	I	7	21 Feb	29 May	8	3 Dec
2024	B	II	6	13 Feb	20 May	7	1 Dec
2025	C	I	8	4 Mar	9 June	10	30 Nov
2026	A	II	6	17 Feb	25 May	8	29 Nov
2027	B	I	5	9 Feb	17 May	7	28 Nov
2028	C	II	8	29 Feb	5 June	9	3 Dec
2029	A	I	6	13 Feb	21 May	7	2 Dec
2030	B	II	8	5 Mar	10 June	10	1 Dec

TABLE OF RUBRICS GOVERNING RITUAL AND OTHER MASSES

The following table of rubrics governs when celebrations using the formularies from Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, Votive Masses, and Masses for the Dead are permitted within the liturgical year.

SIGLA

- V1 = Ritual Masses (General Instruction of the Roman Missal [hereafter, GIRM], no. 330).
Masses for various needs and occasions and votive Masses, in cases of serious need or pastoral advantage, at the direction of the local Ordinary or with his permission (GIRM, no. 332).
- V2 = Masses for various needs and occasions and votive Masses, in cases of serious need or pastoral advantage, at the discretion of the rector of the church or the priest celebrant (GIRM, no. 333).
- V3 = Masses for various needs and occasions and votive Masses chosen by the priest celebrant in favour of the devotion of the people (GIRM, no. 329:2 and 3).
- D1 = Funeral Mass (GIRM, no. 336).
- D2 = Mass on the occasion of news of a death, final burial, or the first anniversary (GIRM, no. 337).
- D3 = Daily Mass for the dead (GIRM, no. 337). When D1 and D2 are not permitted, neither is D3.
- + = permitted.
- = not permitted.

1. Solemnities of precept	V1- D1-		
2. Sundays of the seasons of Advent, Lent, and Easter	V1- D1-		
3. Holy Thursday, Easter Triduum	V1- D1-		
4. Solemnities not of precept, All Souls	V1- D1+		
5. Ash Wednesday, weekdays of Holy Week	V1- D1+		
6. Days in the octave of Easter	V1- D1+		
7. Sundays of Christmas and Sundays in Ordinary Time	V1+ D1+	V2- D2-	
8. Feasts	V1+ D1+	V2- D2-	
9. Weekdays of the season of Advent from 17 to 24 December	V1+ D1+	V2- D2+	
10. Days in the octave of Christmas	V1+ D1+	V2- D2+	
11. Weekdays of the season of Lent	V1+ D1+	V2- D2+	
12. Obligatory memorials	V1+ D1+	V2+ D2+	
13. Weekdays of the season of Advent to 16 December	V1+ D1+	V2+ D2+	
14. Weekdays of the season of Christmas from 2 January	V1+ D1+	V2+ D2+	
15. Weekdays of the season of Easter	V1+ D1+	V2+ D2+	
16. Weekdays in Ordinary Time	V1+ D1+	V2+ D2+	V3+ D3+



THE PROPER OF SEASONS

*Now is the time of salvation,
this is the year of the Lord's favour*

SEE 2 CORINTHIANS 6:2



SEASON OF ADVENT

*Behold! I am coming soon,
says the Lord*
REVELATION 22:7

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

MONDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,
keep your servants alert and watchful
as we await the return of Christ your Son,
so that when he comes and knocks at the door
he may find us vigilant in prayer,
with songs of praise on our lips.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Accept, Lord, our offerings,
chosen from among your many gifts,
and let this present expression of our reverence
become for us the pledge of eternal redemption.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
grant that in our journey through this passing world
we may learn from these mysteries
to cherish even now the things of heaven
and to cling to the treasures that never pass away.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Hear our petitions, Lord God of mercy,
and give us your devoted help in our trials,
so that the presence of your Son, who is to come,
may strengthen us even now
and heal the wounds of our former ways.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
in your goodness
be pleased with our prayers and offerings
and, since we can merit nothing of ourselves,
come to our rescue with your mercy.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
you have nourished us with the food of life.
Through our partaking of this sacrament
teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and to cherish those of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

By your holy power, Lord God,
prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ your Son,
that he may find us worthy to sit at the banquet of eternal life
and to receive from his hands the food of heaven.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may the continual offering of the eucharistic sacrifice
carry out the mystery of our redemption
and accomplish your saving work among us.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, O Lord,
that the power of these divine mysteries may free us from sin
and prepare us for the approaching feast of Christmas.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Stir up your power, Lord God,
and support us with your mighty strength,
that your merciful grace may bring us quickly
the salvation that our sins delay.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Look upon us, Lord, in your goodness,
for we have brought bread and wine to this holy table
in obedience to Christ's command.
Make ready our lips to glorify your name
and prepare our hearts to receive your Son,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,
your Son, who will come one day in power,
has come to us today in the gifts we have received.
By this holy food strengthen us in doing good
and keep us ever watchful
for the return of Christ in glory
who is Lord for ever and ever.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Stir up your power, Lord Jesus, and come.
Protect us from the menace of our sins,
release us from their grasp,
save us and set us free,
you who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God our strength,
in you is our hope of salvation.
As we present these gifts,
renew your joy within us
and make us a living sacrifice of praise.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may the divine mysteries we have shared
keep your people safe from harm,
so that, ever faithful to your service,
we may enjoy salvation of mind and body.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Merciful God,
you sent your only Son into the world
to free the human race from its ancient bondage;
as we watch for his coming,
lavish your heavenly goodness upon us,
that we may gain the prize of true deliverance.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
may the power of the Spirit
which came upon Mary and made her womb fruitful
sanctify the gifts we have placed on this altar.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

God of the covenant,
you give us this sacrament
as a pledge of redemption.
Renew our Christian hope,
root it firmly in faith,
and bring it to flower in works of love.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Let the prayer of your servants rise before you, O Lord,
that with pure and undivided hearts
we may celebrate the great mystery
of the incarnation of your only-begotten Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept, Lord, our offerings,
chosen from among your many gifts,
and let this present expression of our reverence
become for us the pledge of eternal redemption.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord our God,
grant that in our journey through this passing world
we may learn from these mysteries
to cherish even now the things of heaven
and to cling to the treasures that never pass away.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
in Christ your Son you proclaimed salvation
to all the world.
Give us the grace, we pray,
to prepare joyfully for his glorious birth.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
in your goodness
be pleased with our prayers and offerings
and, since we can merit nothing of ourselves,
come to our rescue with your mercy.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
you have nourished us with the food of life.
Through our partaking of this sacrament
teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and to cherish those of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

You command us, God of power,
to prepare the way for Christ the Lord.
Let our weakness never discourage us,
as we long for the comfort of his healing presence.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may the continual offering of the eucharistic sacrifice
carry out the mystery of our redemption
and accomplish your saving work among us.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, O Lord,
that the power of these divine mysteries may free us from sin
and prepare us for the approaching feast of Christmas.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,
to prepare the way for your only Son,
that his coming may purify our minds
and make us worthy to serve you.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Look upon us, Lord, in your goodness,
for we have brought bread and wine to this holy table
in obedience to Christ's command.
Make ready our lips to glorify your name
and prepare our hearts to receive your Son,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,
your Son, who will come one day in power,
has come to us today in the gifts we have received.
By this holy food strengthen us in doing good
and keep us ever watchful
for the return of Christ in glory,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
keep your people ever vigilant
as we await the return of your only Son,
that, mindful of our Saviour's teaching,
we may be ready with lamps burning
and hasten to greet him when he comes.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God our strength,
in you is our hope of salvation.
As we present these gifts,
renew your joy within us
and make us a living sacrifice of praise.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,
we have received in word and sacrament
the One whose coming John the Baptist so urgently announced.
By the presence of Christ among us,
reform our lives
and give us courage to announce in the world
that your kingdom is near.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful God,
let the splendour of your glory
rise in our hearts like the dawn,
that the darkness of the night may be scattered
and the coming of your only Son may reveal us
as children of the light.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may the power of the Spirit
which came upon Mary and made her womb fruitful
sanctify the gifts we have placed on this altar.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the covenant,
you give us this sacrament
as a pledge of redemption.
Renew our Christian hope,
root it firmly in faith,
and bring it to flower in works of love.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

God of mercy,
open your ears to our cries
and light up the dark places of our hearts
with the grace of your Son,
who will visit us and set us free.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept, Lord, our offerings,
chosen from among your many gifts,
and let this present expression of our reverence
become for us the pledge of eternal redemption.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord our God,
grant that in our journey through this passing world
we may learn from these mysteries
to cherish even now the things of heaven
and to cling to the treasures that never pass away.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of love,
through your only-begotten Son
you have made us a new creation;
guard carefully the great work of your mercy
and by the coming of your Son
remove every trace of our old ways of sin.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
in your goodness
be pleased with our prayers and offerings
and, since we can merit nothing of ourselves,
come to our rescue with your mercy.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
you have nourished us with the food of life.
Through our partaking of this sacrament
teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and to cherish those of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Grant, almighty God,
that the coming feast of the birth of your Son
may impart healing to us in this present life
and bestow on us the rewards of the life to come.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may the continual offering of the eucharistic sacrifice
carry out the mystery of our redemption
and accomplish your saving work among us.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, O Lord,
that the power of these divine mysteries may free us from sin
and prepare us for the approaching feast of Christmas.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
our faults weigh us down
and our sins make us unworthy of you;
but gladden our hearts by the birth of your only Son,
for he comes to bring us salvation.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Look upon us, Lord, in your goodness,
for we have brought bread and wine to this holy table
in obedience to Christ's command.
Make ready our lips to glorify your name
and prepare our hearts to receive your Son,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Almighty God,
your Son, who will come one day in power,
has come to us today in the gifts we have received.
By this holy food strengthen us in doing good
and keep us ever watchful
for the return of Christ in glory,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Let your tireless grace accompany us, Lord God,
let it go before us and follow after,
that we who long for the coming of your Son
may be sustained by your love
in this life and in the life to come.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God our strength,
in you is our hope of salvation.
As we present these gifts,
renew your joy within us
and make us a living sacrifice of praise.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent I, page 516; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,
we have received in word and sacrament
the One whose coming John the Baptist so urgently announced.
By the presence of Christ among us,
reform our lives
and give us courage to announce in the world
that your kingdom is near.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

WEEKDAYS OF ADVENT: 17– 24 DECEMBER

The following Mass texts are used on the days assigned, with the exception of Sunday, which retains its proper texts.

17 DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER

Creator and Redeemer of the human race,
it was your holy will
that your Word should take flesh
in the womb of the ever-virgin Mary.
Look with kindness on our prayers
and grant that your only Son,
who came to share our human nature,
may lead us to share in his divine life.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
sanctify the gifts of your Church,
that through these sacred mysteries
our life may be renewed
by the true bread from heaven.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent II, page 518; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of power,
you have fed us with heavenly gifts.
Fill us now with this desire:
that, aflame with your Spirit,
we may shine like stars in the heavens
at the coming of Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

18 DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful God,
we are oppressed and weighed down
by the ancient yoke of sin.
Grant that the birth of your only Son,
so long awaited, yet always new,
may deliver us and set us free.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord,
let the sacrifice to be offered to your name
make us acceptable to you,
that we may share in the immortal life of your Son,
who healed our mortal nature by his death.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent II, page 518; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

In this gathering of your Church,
the living temple of your presence,
may we find your mercy, Lord,
and so approach with fitting reverence
the coming feast of our redemption.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

19 DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER

God of life,
in the child who was born of the Virgin Mary
you revealed to the world the radiance of your glory.
Grant that we may celebrate
with full and reverent faith
this great mystery of the Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Look mercifully, Lord,
on the gifts we lay upon your altar
and by your power consecrate
what we bring to you in our weakness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent II, page 518; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,
we give you thanks for the gifts you have bestowed.
Create in us a desire for blessings yet to come,
that we may welcome the birth of Christ our Saviour
with free and devoted hearts.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

20 DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
by consenting to the message of an angel
the immaculate Virgin became the dwelling of your eternal Word
and was filled with the light of the Holy Spirit.
Give us the grace to follow her example
and devote ourselves humbly to your will.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Look with favour, Lord,
upon the one sacrifice of Christ,
that, by sharing in this mystery,
we may receive the blessings
which we long for in faith and in hope.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent II, page 518; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
defend with your divine power
those whom you nourish with heavenly gifts,
so that, blessed by this sacrament,
we may rejoice in the peace
which you alone can give.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

21 DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful Lord,
hear the prayers of your people,
who celebrate the coming of your Son in human flesh,
that when he comes again in glory
we may gain the prize of eternal life.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
accept from your Church these gifts
which in your mercy you have given us to offer
and which by your power
you transform into the sacrament of our salvation.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent II, page 518; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may the divine mysteries we have shared
keep your people safe from harm,
so that, ever faithful to your service,
we may enjoy salvation of mind and body.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

22 DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER

All-provident God,
when we were sunk in sin and death
you turned toward us
and rescued us by the incarnation of your only Son.
Grant that we who acknowledge his coming with reverent love
may also be one with him, our Lord and Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

With confidence in your mercy, Lord God,
we hasten to place these gifts on your holy altar,
that your grace may cleanse us from sin
through the very sacrament
by which we offer you true worship.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent II, page 518; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
may our sharing in your sacrament
be for us a source of strength,
so that when the Saviour comes,
we may welcome him with holy lives
and obtain the prize of unending happiness.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

23 DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God,
as the nativity of your Son according to the flesh draws near,
grant our humble prayer,
that we may know the mercy of the Word incarnate,
who took flesh of the Virgin Mary
and came to dwell among us.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
let the sacrifice you have given
as the full expression of the Church's worship
establish us firmly in your peace,
that we may celebrate with untroubled hearts
the coming birth of our Saviour,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent II, page 518; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III,
page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant pardon and peace, O Lord,
to those you have fed with heavenly gifts,
so that, at the coming of your beloved Son,
we may hasten to greet him
with lamps alight in our hands.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

24 DECEMBER

MASS IN THE MORNING

OPENING PRAYER Come quickly, Lord Jesus, do not delay!
We entrust ourselves to your love:
strengthen us by your coming and raise us up,
you who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS Graciously accept, O Lord, the gifts we offer,
that our partaking of them may free us from sin
and purify our hearts
for the glorious coming of your Son,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Advent II, page 518; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION You have renewed us, Lord, by these wonderful gifts.
As we prepare for the mystery of Christ's birth,
grant that we may rejoice
in his gift of eternal life.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.



SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

*The goodness and loving-kindness
of God our Saviour has appeared among us*

SEE TITUS 3:4

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

26 DECEMBER STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR FEAST

The feast of Stephen, who was martyred in Jerusalem about 35, has been celebrated on this day since the fourth century. A Greek-speaking Jew, Stephen was one of seven appointed by the apostles for special service (*diakonia*). He died confessing Christ and seeking divine mercy for those who were stoning him. Named in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I), he is remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit (Acts 6:10), as one “full of grace and power” who “did great wonders and signs among the people” (Acts 6:8).

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
we celebrate Saint Stephen’s birth into heavenly glory,
who even as he died prayed for his persecutors;
grant that we may follow his example
and learn to love our enemies.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
accept from our hands these gifts,
which the feast of your glorious martyr Stephen
prompts us to offer
as a sign of our faithful service.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer I, page 705, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord,
for the mercies you shower upon us.
Through the birth of your Son
you bring salvation to your Church,
and in this celebration of the martyr Stephen
you give your people joy.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

27 DECEMBER **JOHN**, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST
FEAST

John was a first-century Galilean fisherman, son of Zebedee, who, with his brother James, left their nets to follow Jesus. With Peter, these “sons of thunder” form an inner group among the twelve, and John is probably the “disciple whom Jesus loved” of the Fourth Gospel. According to ancient tradition, he is the author of this Gospel and also of three letters and the book of Revelation. He is remembered for his contemplative reflection on the life and death of Jesus and for his emphasis on Christian love.

OPENING
PRAYER

Eternal God,
through the blessed apostle John
you unlocked the mysteries of your Word.
Let the sublime wisdom he proclaimed
capture our minds and our hearts.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Sanctify, O God, the gifts we offer
and grant that at this sacred banquet
we may drink in the hidden wisdom of your eternal Word,
revealed to the apostle John at this same fountain.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer I, page 705, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Grant, almighty God,
that the Word made flesh,
proclaimed by the apostle John,
may dwell among us always
through the mystery we have celebrated.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

28 DECEMBER THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

FEAST

In an attempt to kill the child Jesus, Herod ordered the massacre of all male children, two years old and under, in and around Bethlehem. The Holy Innocents have been honoured as martyrs for Christ since the fourth century and their feast has been celebrated on this day since the sixth century. In remembering them, the Church laments the suffering and death of children everywhere and honours all who die in innocence.

OPENING
PRAYER

On this day, Lord God,
the Holy Innocents proclaimed your glory
not with words but by their death.
Give us the grace to proclaim our faith
not only with our lips but also with our lives.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept, O Lord, the offering of your devoted people,
and purify their hearts
through your holy mysteries,
which you have made a source of grace
even for those who do not know you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer I, page 705, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord,
at your Son's nativity
you crowned with heavenly grace the Holy Innocents,
though they were too young to confess Christ in words.
Grant on this feast the fullness of salvation
to all who have received your holy gifts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

29 DECEMBER FIFTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

OPENING PRAYER All-powerful and unseen God,
the coming of your light
has banished darkness from the face of the earth.
Turn your gentle gaze upon us,
that we may worthily praise and proclaim
the glorious birth of your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS Lord God,
in this wonderful exchange of gifts
accept the offerings you have given us,
that we in turn may receive the gift of yourself.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer I, page 705, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION God of love and mercy,
sustain our lives from day to day
by the power of these sacred mysteries.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

30 DECEMBER SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

When there is no Sunday within the octave of Christmas, the feast of the Holy Family, page 66, is celebrated today.

OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful God,
we are born under the ancient yoke of sin;
grant that the birth of your only Son according to the flesh
may deliver us and set us free.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Take to yourself, O Lord, the gifts your people offer,
that in this holy sacrament
we may enter the mystery
which we profess with devotion and faith.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer I, page 705, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Whenever we share in this sacrament,
you touch our lives, O God.
Deepen its effect upon our hearts,
that the very gift you give us
may make us worthy to receive it.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

31 DECEMBER SEVENTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

OPENING
PRAYER

God of wisdom and power,
you established in the birth of your Son
the source and fulfilment of all religion;
number us among those who belong to Christ,
for in him alone is salvation complete.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
wellspring of peace and true worship,
let our offering come before you
as fitting homage to your glory,
and let our partaking of these sacred mysteries
unite our hearts in faith.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer I, page 705, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord,
you provide for your people in numberless ways.
Grant us your loving protection
now and in times to come,
so that, reassured by your care for our daily needs,
we may strive with greater trust
toward the goal of eternal life.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

30 DECEMBER THE HOLY FAMILY

FEAST

This feast was established as part of the Christmas season in 1921 following promotion of the cult in the nineteenth century; it was linked to the octave of Christmas in 1969. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, itself subject to the difficulties and social pressures of its time, is offered as a model for Christian family life today.

If Christmas falls on a Sunday, the feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on 30 December.

OPENING PRAYER

God of blessings,
in the Holy Family you give us the model
of a household drawn together in love.
Grant that we may follow their example
and be welcomed with joy into your home in heaven.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE

OPENING YEAR A PRAYER

Loving God,
guardian of our homes,
when you entrusted your Son
to the care of Mary and Joseph,
you did not spare them the pains
that touch the life of every family.

Teach us to rely on your word,
that in our trials as in our joys
we may be clothed in gentleness and patience
and united in love.
Make us ever-thankful
for the blessings you give us
through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever.

YEAR B

O God,
you cradle us at the beginning of life
and embrace us at our journey's end,
for you love us as your own.

Bind our families together
and deepen our faith,
that, like the Holy Family of Nazareth,
we may grow in wisdom,
obedient to your word.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever.

YEAR C As your sons and daughters, O loving God,
we come before you in thanksgiving,
called and united by your eternal Word.
Teach us to ponder the mystery of Nazareth,
that we may always find in you
the source of our strength
and the unity of our families.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

We beg you, Lord,
accept the sacrifice which makes our peace with you
and, through the prayers of Mary, the virgin Mother of God,
and of blessed Joseph, her husband,
unite our families in your grace and peace.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer I, page 705, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Merciful Father,
you have refreshed us with this heavenly sacrament.
Grant us the grace to follow closely
the example of the Holy Family,
that, after the trials of this present life,
we may be welcomed into their company for ever.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING: Solemn Blessing, page 912.

1 JANUARY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

SOLEMNITY

The Virgin Mary was already venerated as Mother of God when, in 431, the Council of Ephesus acclaimed her *Theotokos* (God-bearer). Her role in the mystery of the incarnation was celebrated on this day in Rome in the seventh century but was soon eclipsed by other feasts of Mary. Restored to the liturgical calendar in 1931, and to this day in 1969, the feast celebrates from a Marian perspective the Word made flesh, and so enriches the observance of the octave of Christmas and provides a solemn beginning to the New Year.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
through the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary
you offered to the human race
the treasures of eternal salvation.
Let us experience the power of her prayers,
for through her we have received the author of life, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

ALTERNATIVE

OPENING PRAYER

Most high God,
you come near to us this Christmas season
in the child born of the Virgin Mary.
In the depths of darkness, she gave birth to light;
in the depths of silence, she brought forth the Word.

Grant that we who ponder these things in our hearts
may recognise in her child
our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

You, O God, are the beginning of every good
and bring all things to perfection.
On this feast of Mary, the Mother of God,
grant that, as we delight in your first gifts of grace,
we may rejoice one day in their glorious fulfilment.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary I, page 624; interpolations for Eucharistic Prayer I, page 705, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord,
as we joyfully proclaim the Virgin Mary
to be Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church,
we ask that this heavenly sacrament
by which we have been nourished
may bring us to life everlasting.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

BLESSING: Solemn Blessing, page 912.

WEEKDAYS OF THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS
BEFORE THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

All-provident God,
we believe that your only-begotten Son,
who lives with you in eternal glory,
took flesh like ours and was born of the Virgin Mary.
Keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may be freed from present evils
and live in the hope of lasting glory.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
in this wonderful exchange of gifts
accept the offerings you have given us,
that we in turn may receive the gift of yourself.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

God of love and mercy,
sustain our lives from day to day
by the power of these sacred mysteries.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you willed that the humanity of your Son,
who was born of the holy Virgin,
should not be subject to the sentence incurred by our race;
grant that, fashioned into a new creation in Christ,
we may be freed from the old ways of sin.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Take to yourself, O Lord, the gifts your people offer,
that in this holy sacrament
we may enter the mystery
which we profess with devotion and faith.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Whenever we share in this sacrament,
you touch our lives, O God.
Deepen its effect upon our hearts,
that the very gift you give us
may make us worthy to receive it.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God,
in this blessed season a new star appeared in the heavens,
announcing your salvation to the world.
May the light of Christ rise always in our hearts
to refresh them and make them new.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
wellspring of peace and true worship,
let our offering come before you
as fitting homage to your glory,
and let our partaking of these sacred mysteries
unite our hearts in faith.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
you provide for your people in numberless ways.
Grant us your loving protection
now and in times to come,
so that, reassured by your care for our daily needs,
we may strive with greater trust
toward the goal of eternal life.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty God,
with the birth of Christ your only Son
you began the wondrous work of our redemption.
Strengthen us in faith,
that under his care and governance
we may reach the glorious reward that you promise.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
as we recall the birth of your only Son,
make holy the gifts we bring,
for his coming shows us the way of truth
and promises life in the kingdom of heaven,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord our God,
let the workings of this holy mystery
rid us of all that is evil
and bring to fulfilment
those things for which we rightly yearn.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

God of light,
shine upon your faithful people
and set our hearts aflame with the splendour of your grace,
that we may acknowledge Christ as Saviour
and hold fast to him in spirit and in truth.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Eternal God,
in your Word made flesh
earth and heaven were joined,
and all creation was made holy.
Keep us holy who prepare to give you praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

God of majesty,
by signs and wonders you revealed Jesus Christ
as the light of every nation
and the glory of your people.
By the mysteries we have celebrated
renew in us the love of Christ,
that we may come to know him
in the peoples of every race and culture.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of all creation,
through the coming of your only-begotten Son
you filled the world with new radiance.
Grant that, as he shares our human nature
through his birth of the Virgin Mary,
so may we share new life with him in the kingdom of grace,
where he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

You speak to us, O God,
through your Word made flesh
and gather us at your table
set with gifts of bread and wine.
Let our words proclaim your praise
and our deeds declare your glory.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Glorious God,
you have given us Jesus, your Only-begotten,
to forge between heaven and earth
an eternal bond of peace.
Grant that we who have shared your life at this table
may live in peace with all who rejoice in your favour.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6 JANUARY THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
SOLEMNITY

Epiphany is the earliest Christmas feast, originating in the East in the third century and passing to the West in the fourth century. A celebration of the divine “manifestation” or “coming,” in the East it commemorates the baptism of the Lord and in the West the visit of the Magi. These wise men represent all peoples on earth, to whom the mystery of the incarnation is now revealed.

Where the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is not observed as a holyday of obligation, it is celebrated on the Sunday between 2 January and 8 January, which is then considered its proper day in the calendar.

OPENING
PRAYER

God of mystery,
on this day you revealed your only Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star.
We know you now by faith;
lead us into that presence
where we shall behold your glory face to face.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God of the nations,
we have seen the star of your glory
rising in splendour.
The radiance of your incarnate Word
pierces the darkness that covers the earth
and signals the dawn of peace and justice.
Make radiant the lives of your people
with that same brightness,
and beckon all the nations
to walk as one in your light.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
accept the gifts of your Church,
which offers you today not gold, frankincense, and myrrh,
but the one who in these gifts is proclaimed, offered,
and received,
Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Epiphany, page 526; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer I, page 705, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Guide us always and everywhere, Lord,
by your light from on high,
that we may discern with clear minds
and treasure with deep affection
the mystery you have given us to share.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING: Solemn Blessing, page 914.

WEEKDAYS OF THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS
AFTER THE EPIPHANY TO THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord,
let the brightness of your sovereign light shine within our hearts,
that we may pass beyond the darkness of this world
and come at last to the radiance of our eternal home.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
in this wonderful exchange of gifts
accept the offerings you have given us,
that we in turn may receive the gift of yourself.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Epiphany of the Lord, page 526, or Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

God of love and mercy,
sustain our lives from day to day
by the power of these sacred mysteries.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
your only-begotten Son has appeared in human flesh;
grant that he, whose outward form is like our own,
may reshape us inwardly by his grace.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Take to yourself, O Lord, the gifts your people offer,
that in this holy sacrament
we may enter the mystery
which we profess with devotion and faith.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Epiphany of the Lord, page 526, or Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Whenever we share in this sacrament,
you touch our lives, O God.
Deepen its effect upon our hearts,
that the very gift you give us
may make us worthy to receive it.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
the light of all the nations,
bless the peoples of the earth with lasting peace,
and pour into our hearts that bright radiance
by which you guided our ancestors in faith.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
wellspring of peace and true worship,
let our offering come before you
as fitting homage to your glory,
and let our partaking of these sacred mysteries
unite our hearts in faith.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Epiphany of the Lord, page 526, or Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
you provide for your people in numberless ways.
Grant us your loving protection
now and in times to come,
so that, reassured by your care for our daily needs,
we may strive with greater trust
toward the goal of eternal life.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Merciful God,
in your Son Jesus Christ
you raised up an unfailing light
for all the nations to see.
Grant that your people may know and confess
the full splendour of their Redeemer
and, by his grace, enter into light everlasting.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
as we recall the birth of your only Son,
make holy the gifts we bring,
for his coming shows us the way of truth
and promises life in the kingdom of heaven,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Epiphany of the Lord, page 526, or Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord our God,
let the workings of this holy mystery
rid us of all that is evil
and bring to fulfilment
those things for which we rightly yearn.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of nations,
by the guidance of a star
you made known the birth of Christ,
the Saviour of the world.
Reveal to our hearts more fully each day
the mystery of his coming.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Eternal God,
in your Word made flesh
earth and heaven were joined,
and all creation was made holy.
Keep us holy who prepare to give you praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Epiphany of the Lord, page 526, or Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of majesty,
by signs and wonders you revealed Jesus Christ
as the light of every nation
and the glory of your people.
By the mysteries we have celebrated
renew in us the love of Christ,
that we may come to know him
in the peoples of every race and culture.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God,
through your only-begotten Son
you have made us your new creation.
Grant that through your grace
we may be moulded in the form of Christ,
in whom our human nature is united to your Godhead.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

You speak to us, O God,
through your Word made flesh
and gather us at your table
set with gifts of bread and wine.
Let our words proclaim your praise
and our deeds declare your glory.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Epiphany of the Lord, page 526, or Preface of Christmas I-III, pages 520-524.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Glorious God,
you have given us Jesus, your Only-begotten,
to forge between heaven and earth
an eternal bond of peace.
Grant that we who have shared your life at this table
may live in peace with all who rejoice in your favour.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Drawing from the Eastern tradition of Epiphany, the West has remembered the baptism of the Lord on the octave of the Epiphany since the eighth century. The feast was formally introduced into the Roman calendar in 1960 and is now celebrated on the Sunday after the Epiphany as the conclusion to the season of Christmas. It commemorates the revelation of Jesus as God's beloved Son, the Christ, anointed by the Spirit.

If the Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on Sunday, 7 or 8 January, then the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the following Monday.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
when Christ was baptised in the river Jordan,
the Holy Spirit came upon him
and your voice declared him your beloved Son.
Keep all who are reborn of water and the Spirit
as children of adoption in whom you are well pleased.

We ask this 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.

Or: O God,
your only-begotten Son has appeared in human flesh;
grant that he, whose outward form is like our own,
may reshape us inwardly by his grace.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE

OPENING YEAR A PRAYER

God of the covenant,
you anointed your beloved Son
with the power of the Holy Spirit
to be light for the nations
and release for captives.

Grant that we who are born again
of water and the Spirit
may proclaim with our lips the good news of his peace
and show forth in our lives the victory of his justice.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever.

YEAR B God of salvation,
in the river Jordan you bathed your Son Jesus in glory
and revealed him as your obedient servant.

In spirit and in power
rend the heavens and come down to us.
Strengthen us to acknowledge your Christ,
that we who are reborn in his likeness
may walk with him the path of obedience.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever.

YEAR C Open the heavens,
almighty Father,
and pour out your Spirit
upon your people gathered in prayer.
Renew the power of our baptismal cleansing
and fill us with zeal for good deeds.
Let us hear your voice once again,
that we may recognise in your beloved Son
our hope of inheriting eternal life.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
accept the gifts of your faithful people,
presented on this day
when Jesus was proclaimed your beloved Son.
Let our offering become the sacrifice of him
who has washed away the sins of the world
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Baptism of the Lord, page 528.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Refreshed by these holy gifts, Lord God,
we seek your mercy,
that, by listening faithfully to your only Son,
we may be your children in name and in truth.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

BLESSING: Solemn Blessing, pages 920-928.

Ordinary Time begins on the Monday following this Sunday and continues until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Mass texts for Ordinary Time begin on page 185.



SEASON OF LENT

*Jesus proclaimed his message:
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand*

SEE MATTHEW 4:17

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Entrance Procession
- Greeting
- Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- First Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second Reading
- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel
- Homily
- Blessing and Giving of Ashes
- General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

CONCLUDING RITE

ASH WEDNESDAY

The ashes used today come from the branches blessed the preceding year for Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday).

When necessary the blessing and the giving of ashes may also be celebrated outside Mass. In this case the introductory rites and the liturgy of the word should be celebrated as indicated below, and the rite concludes with the Lord's Prayer and the blessing and dismissal.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GREETING

After making the sign of the cross, the priest greets the people, using the following greeting or one of the greetings from the Order of Mass.

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father,
and Christ Jesus our Lord
be with you all.

The people answer:

And also with you.

The priest, deacon, or other suitable minister may very briefly introduce the Mass of the day. The opening rite is omitted and the opening prayer follows immediately.

OPENING PRAYER

Grant us, Lord, the grace
to begin this time of Christian service with a holy fast,
that, as we struggle against the spirit of evil,
we may be strengthened by the practice of self-discipline.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and merciful God,
you look with love upon a sinful people
and desire only their return to you.

We beg of you the grace to live this holy season,
to persevere in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.
By the discipline of Lent
purify our hearts of all pretension,
bring us back to you,
and make the whole Church ready
to celebrate the mysteries of Easter.

Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

BLESSING
AND
GIVING
OF ASHES

INVITATION TO PRAYER

After the homily, the priest, with hands joined, invites the people to pray, using the following invitation or similar words.

Dear friends,
let us implore God our Father
to bless and sanctify these ashes,
which we place on our heads as a sign of repentance.

All pray briefly in silence.

BLESSING OF ASHES

The priest, with hands outstretched, blesses the ashes, using one of the following prayers.

Lord God,
you are moved by humility
and grant pardon to those who repent.
Listen to our prayers
and pour out + your blessing
on those who are marked by these ashes,
that, observing the season of Lent,
they may come with hearts made clean
to celebrate the paschal mystery of your Son.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or: Lord,
you do not wish sinners to die
but to turn to you and live.
In your goodness hear our prayer:
bless + these ashes,
which we place on our heads to remind us
that we are dust and unto dust we shall return.
Grant that by our faithful observance of Lent
we may gain pardon for our sins
and newness of life
in the image of your risen Son.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He sprinkles the ashes with holy water in silence.

GIVING OF ASHES

After receiving the ashes himself, the priest then places ashes on those who come forward. He may be assisted by the deacon and other ministers.

During the giving of ashes, the choir and people may sing Psalm 51 with one of the antiphons from the Antiphonal, page 984, or another appropriate song.

As the ashes are given to each person, the priest or other minister says one of the following Scripture verses.

Repent, and be faithful to the gospel.

Or: Remember you are dust
and to dust you will return.

After the giving of ashes, the priest and other ministers wash their hands; the profession of faith is not said. The rite concludes with the general intercessions (prayer of the faithful) and the Mass continues in the usual way.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
as Lent begins we offer you this solemn sacrifice,
begging that through our works of charity and penance
we may turn away from sin and harmful pleasures
and unite ourselves more closely to the passion of your Son,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER : Preface of Lent III or IV, pages 468-470; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 607.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may the sacrament we have received in faith
sustain and strengthen us,
so that our Lenten fast may win favour in your sight
and help to remedy our human weakness.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

BLESSING: Prayer over the People, page 852.

THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Direct our actions, Lord, by your holy inspiration
and carry them forward by your gracious help,
that all our works may begin in you
and by you be happily ended.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Look kindly, Lord, on the offerings
which we lay upon your sacred altar,
that this sacrifice, by winning us pardon,
may glorify your holy name.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer
III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,
you have blessed us with heavenly gifts;
grant that they may always be for us
a continuing source of forgiveness and healing.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Stay with us, kind and gracious Lord,
on the penitential journey which we have begun,
that the outward discipline we practice
may be matched by sincerity of heart.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
we offer you this sacrifice during the days of Lent,
asking that it make us pleasing to you
and more generous in our practice of self-denial.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer
III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,
through our sharing in this sacrament
cleanse us from every stain of sin
and open our hearts to the healing power of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Strong and faithful God,
look with mercy upon our human frailty,
and stretch forth your powerful right arm
to shield us from every danger.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Accept, O Lord,
this sacrifice of reconciliation and praise,
that its working may cleanse us from sin
and make our hearts a gift pleasing to you.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Enlivened by the bread of heaven,
we ask, Lord God,
that the mystery of faith we celebrate on earth
may lead us to blessings that endure for ever.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

MONDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Turn back our hearts to you, O God our Saviour,
and instruct our minds in heavenly wisdom,
that through the practices of Lent
we may advance in your love and favour.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Accept, O Lord, our devout offering,
so that, by the working of your grace,
it may transform our daily lives
and win for us your pardon and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may we experience in this sacrament
protection for mind and body,
so that, restored to wholeness in both,
we may rejoice in the fullness of your healing.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Look mercifully, Lord, upon your family,
that, as we discipline our desire for earthly things,
a longing for you may grow in our hearts.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of all creation,
we bring you the fruits of your bountiful goodness;
in your mercy,
take these gifts, which nourish our life on earth,
and change them into the sacrament of life eternal.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Through these sacred mysteries, O Lord,
grant us the wisdom
to temper our desire for earthly things
and learn to love the things of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Lord,
look with favour on a people committed to your service,
and make us rich in good works,
that we who practice bodily penance
may also be renewed in spirit.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
we present to you these offerings,
which you have given us
to consecrate to your holy name.
Make them the sacrament of our healing
and the pledge of our eternal salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
you never fail to nourish us
with your sacraments;
grant that the food we have received today
may bestow on us the gift of life eternal.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
in your boundless mercy
grant us always the desire to know what is right
and the readiness to do it,
so that we who cannot exist without you
may direct our lives according to your will.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Look with favour, Lord, upon the desires of your people,
and, having accepted our prayers and offerings,
turn the hearts of each of us toward you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
grant that these most sacred mysteries,
by which you safeguard our life of grace,
may heal and protect us
now and in time to come.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
prepare your people fittingly
for the celebration of Easter,
that the bodily penance we have solemnly begun
may work to the good of our souls.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Accept from our hands, Lord God,
the sacrifice which makes our peace with you
and which by your great mercy
restores to us the gift of salvation.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Through our partaking of this sacrament, Lord,
restore us to wholeness,
strip away every trace of sin,
and draw us more fully
into the great mystery of salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal Father,
turn our hearts back to you,
that we may commit our lives to your praise and service,
seeking always the one thing necessary
and providing for the needs of others.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may the great sacrament
by which we are restored to life
make us worthy of the grace it promises.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
let your constant blessings descend
on those whom you nourish with these divine mysteries,
and let your comfort surround those
you have instructed in the things of heaven.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SECOND WEEK OF LENT

MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Ever-faithful God,
for the healing of our souls
you teach us to discipline our bodies by penance.
Give us the grace to abstain from all sin
and to accept the demands that your love makes upon us.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

In your mercy, Lord,
listen to our prayers,
and free from the seductions of this world
those whom you call to celebrate these holy mysteries.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Let this holy communion, Lord,
remove from us all trace of sin
and lead us into the company of the saints,
who rejoice for ever in your heavenly kingdom.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Watch over your Church, Lord God, with unfailing mercy,
and since without you humankind will surely fall,
protect us by your grace from every harm
and guide us toward those things that work for our good.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
through these holy mysteries
continue the work of your grace among us,
that it may free us from our human failings
and lead us to the blessed gifts of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may the nourishment received at this sacred table
increase the holiness of our lives
and obtain for us the sure help
of your unfailing mercy.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Sustain your family, O Lord,
whom you have formed in the ways of loving service.
Strengthen us with your help in this present life
and in your mercy lead us to life eternal.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
look with favour on these sacrificial offerings,
and, through this holy exchange of gifts,
deliver us from the bondage of our sins.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
we ask that this holy sacrament,
which you have given as the pledge of immortal life,
may be a constant support
in our journey toward eternal salvation.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
you love innocence
and you restore it in those who have sinned.
Turn back our wayward hearts to you
and inflame them with your Holy Spirit,
that we may be steadfast in faith
and effective in the works of love.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
through this holy sacrifice
bless and sanctify these forty days,
that our outward practice of penance
may lead to a true conversion of heart.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
may this sacrifice remain alive in our hearts
and may its power be evident in our every action.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Purify us, almighty God, by this holy practice of penance,
that with hearts made fresh and whole
we may advance toward the solemn feast of our redemption.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O God,
let your merciful grace inspire your servants,
and let it shape our way of life,
that we may worthily celebrate these holy mysteries.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
we have received from your hands
the pledge of eternal salvation;
grant that we may so shape our lives
as to reach that promised reward.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
by your healing gift of grace
you share with us the things of heaven
while we are yet on earth.
Guide us, we pray, in this our present life
and lead us to that everlasting light in which you dwell.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may this holy sacrament
bring forth within us the fruits of redemption
to restrain our hearts from human folly
and lead us safely to the gifts of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may the grace poured out in this sacrament
reach the inmost corners of our hearts
and bestow upon us a share of its power.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

MONDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
we pray that your endless mercy
may cleanse and protect your Church;
and, since it cannot stand firm without you,
guide and govern it always by your grace.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
take the gifts we offer you in worship
and transform them
into the sacrament of our salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, that our sharing in your sacrament
may cleanse us from all taint of sin
and gather us together as one.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Do not forsake us, Lord, in this time of penance,
but by your grace
confirm your power within us
and renew our dedication to your holy service.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
grant that the sacrifice
which brings us salvation
may cleanse our hearts from sin
and win for us your favour and protection.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord,
that our partaking of this sacrament
may enliven our hearts
and obtain for us your pardon and protection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of wisdom,
throughout these forty days you instruct your people
and nourish them with your word of life.
Teach us through self-denial to bind our hearts to your service
and make us one through constant prayer.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
receive these offerings
and with them the prayers of your people.
Through our celebration of these holy mysteries
shield us from every danger.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer
III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may the heavenly banquet we have shared
make us holy,
rid our minds of error,
and prepare our hearts for the promised gifts of your kingdom.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

God of majesty,
we make this heartfelt prayer:
that the nearer we come to the great feast of our salvation,
the more fervently we may prepare ourselves
to celebrate the paschal mystery.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
cleanse your people from the contagion of sin,
that these gifts may be pleasing to you.
Do not allow us to cling to deceptive joys,
for you promise us the reward of eternal truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Gracious Lord,
sustain those whom you refresh at your table,
so that the saving power at work in this sacrament
may transform our every action.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful Lord,
pour forth your grace into our hearts,
that its power may restrain our unruly desires
and keep us true to your words of eternal life.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
look with favour on these gifts
that we consecrate to your glory.
May they become an offering pleasing to you
and be for us the unfailing source of salvation.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer
III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
let your energy and power
pervade our minds and bodies,
that we may obtain in full measure
the redemption we have shared in this eucharist.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Grant, O Lord,
that as we celebrate with joy this season of Lent
we may enter more deeply into the paschal mystery
and come to enjoy the fullness of its riches.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
by your gift of grace
we are able to approach these holy mysteries
with minds and hearts renewed.
Grant that we may offer you fitting worship
in this memorial which Christ has left for us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of mercy,
again and again you satisfy our hunger
with your holy gifts.
Grant that we may celebrate this sacrament
with true reverence
and receive it always with faith in our hearts.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

MONDAY

OPENING PRAYER

In the mystery of your saving plan, O God,
you wonderfully renew the world;
grant that your Church may be guided by your eternal decrees
and never lack your help here on earth.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may this offering we dedicate to you
bear fruit in our lives,
that we may cast aside our old ways of sin,
and be renewed by the growth of your life within us.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
by its power to renew,
may your gift of the eucharist
increase the life of grace within us;
by its power to make holy,
may it bring us to eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

As your people faithfully observe
the Lenten duties of prayer and self-denial,
prepare our hearts, Lord God,
that we may readily embrace the paschal mystery
and proclaim with joy your message of salvation.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
we offer you the gifts which you have given.
May they bear witness
that your creation sustains our life on earth;
may they become for us the food of life eternal.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious Lord,
through this heavenly sacrament
purify and renew us from within,
so that even in our bodies
we may be sustained, both now and always,
by your great strength.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of mercy,
you reward the just for the good they do
and forgive repentant sinners;
take pity on us and answer our prayer,
that as we confess our guilt
we may hear the voice of your pardon.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Merciful Lord,
by the power of this sacrifice
remove from us the old ways of sin
and make us grow in grace and newness of life.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
never permit our receiving of these heavenly gifts
to bring us condemnation,
for you have given them to your people
as the source of healing and salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of forgiveness,
listen graciously to our prayers,
so that, corrected by penance
and formed by good works,
we may faithfully observe your commandments
and come without fault to the celebration of Easter.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Almighty God,
you know our frailty.
Grant that the offering of this sacrifice
may cleanse us from all sin
and safeguard us in every danger.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Through the sacrament we have received
cleanse us, Lord God,
and rid us of all taint of sin,
that we who are weighed down by our guilt
may know the fullness of your heavenly pardon.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

In your wisdom, O God,
you have provided remedies for our human weakness.
Grant that we may joyfully accept your healing grace
and show its effect in the holiness of our lives.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Almighty God,
may this offering cleanse us by its power
and enable us to approach the paschal mysteries
with greater purity of heart.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord,
that in our journey from old life to new,
we may lay aside our former habits of sin
and be renewed in holiness of spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
let the working of your gentle mercy
direct the movement of our hearts,
for without your grace
we cannot find favour in your sight.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
be pleased to accept our offerings,
and even when our wills resist your grace
draw us more strongly to yourself.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
grant that your holy gifts may free us from sin,
and by their power make us pleasing in your sight.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

MONDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of surpassing love,
you enrich us with every blessing;
grant that, by setting aside our former ways
for a life that is new,
we may be ready for the glory of your kingdom.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
as we come to celebrate these holy mysteries,
grant that through our Lenten self-denial
we may offer to you
joyful spirits and undivided hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
through the celebration of this sacrament
you have renewed our strength.
By these holy mysteries
cleanse us from all trace of sin,
and, as we follow Christ,
quicken our steps toward you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

God of mercy and compassion,
grant that your household, the Church,
may persevere in obeying your will,
so that in our own day
those who offer you true service
may grow in number and holiness.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
we offer you this sacrifice of reconciliation,
that in your mercy you may forgive our sins
and guide our wavering hearts into the way of peace.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

All-powerful God,
grant that we may always cling to these sacred mysteries,
and so draw nearer to the blessings of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of loving-kindness,
enlighten the hearts of your children,
who are cleansed by Lenten penance.
Be not deaf to our prayer,
for it is you who awaken within us
the very desire to serve you.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
accept the sacrifice we dedicate to you:
you have given us these gifts,
that we may offer them to your glory
and receive them in turn from your hands
as a source of health and strength.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may the sacrament we have received
be for us a remedy from heaven
to purge all sin from our hearts
and assure us your constant protection.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Do not withhold your presence, Lord our God,
from those who call upon you,
but look with tender care
on all who hope in your mercy.
Cleanse them from the stain of sin,
that they may persevere in holiness of life
and receive the inheritance you have promised.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
look kindly on the sacrifice we offer,
that it may stir our hearts to return to you
and advance the salvation of all the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful Lord,
we have feasted at your banquet of salvation.
Through this sacrament
which nourishes our lives on earth
make us sharers in eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Pardon, merciful Lord, the offences of your people,
and in your goodness
release us from the bonds of sin
which in our human weakness
we have fashioned for ourselves.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of compassion,
grant that we may always serve with reverence at your altar
and find salvation
by our faithful sharing in these mysteries.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may the power of the sacrament we have received
protect us always
and ward off all things that would do us harm.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Most holy God,
your saving grace extends to every season,
but in this time of Lent you gladden your Church
with a still greater outpouring of love.
Look kindly upon your elect,
that those about to enter the waters of baptism
and those already baptised
may know the power of your mighty arm.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Almighty and ever-living God,
by the sacrament of baptism
you restore to eternal life
those who profess your name.
Accept the gifts and prayers of your people,
fulfil their longings and blot out their sins,
for they place their hope in you.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of majesty,
receive our humble prayer:
just as you nourish us
with the most holy body and blood of your Son,
so let us partake of his divine nature,
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

During the weekdays of Lent, one of the following prayers over the gifts or prayers after communion may be used instead of the prayer over the gifts or prayer after communion given in place for the weekday.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

- 1 You have purified us, O God,
and made us worthy
to set these gifts before you.
Enlighten us now and always,
that we may worship you in spirit and in truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 2 God of grace,
look with lasting kindness
upon us who bring these gifts to your altar.
Put within us a new heart
and make us worthy to sing your praise.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- 1 God of the covenant,
you have prepared for us this banquet of the Lamb,
whose blood brings deliverance,
whose body gives life to the world.
By this celebration mark us as your holy people,
that what we have received
may sustain us in our exodus from sin
and strengthen us when we grow weary.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

- 2 God of truth and splendour,
in Christ Jesus
your faithful people hear your voice
and see the glory to which they are called.
Throughout our Lenten journey
keep us attentive to your word,
and by the grace of this sacrament
transform our lives.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 All-merciful God,
you bring us through the waters of life
to the banquet of life eternal.
Refresh and sustain us by this holy food.
Keep us worthy of your gifts
and ready to share our faith
with all those you have chosen.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 Almighty God,
you have given us the bread of heaven
as food for our journey.
Sustain us on our way toward the promised land,
that, purified from evil,
we may glorify your name in good works
and reach the eternal Easter.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

5 Faithful God,
you have poured out your Spirit upon us,
that we may know your Son
as the light no darkness can extinguish.
By this eucharist,
renew those you have enlightened,
and purify us of all that is darkness.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6 Almighty God,
in your abiding love
you gave us Jesus Christ
as the resurrection and the life.
By this eucharist break the bonds of sin and death
and renew all those who have been baptised in him,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

HOLY WEEK

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful God,
as often as we grow faint through human weakness,
grant us new life and breath
through the passion and death of your beloved Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

In your compassion, Lord,
you have provided this sacrament
to cancel the judgement
that condemned us for our sins.
Look graciously on these holy mysteries,
that they may bear for us the fruit of eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord II, page 540; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
stay with your people,
who are sanctified by these holy mysteries,
and watch over their hearts with unfailing love.
Under your protection
may we hold fast to the saving remedy
that we receive through your mercy.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful and ever-living God,
enable us to celebrate worthily
the mysteries of the Lord's passion and death
and so experience the grace of your tender pardon.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
look with love on the sacrifice your family offers
and grant that all whom you invite
to share these holy mysteries
may receive in full the promise they contain.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord II, page 540; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful Lord,
we have feasted at your banquet of salvation.
Through this sacrament,
which nourishes our lives on earth,
make us sharers in eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

OPENING PRAYER

For our sake, O God, you willed
that your Son should climb the scaffold of the cross
to lift from our shoulders the dark yoke of Satan.
Grant that we may come to share
the grace and power of Christ's resurrection.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Accept, we beseech you, Lord,
the gifts we offer,
and be pleased to accomplish in our lives
that which we celebrate
in the mystery of your Son's passion.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord II, page 540; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All-powerful God,
the holy mysteries we have celebrated
proclaim the death of your Son on Calvary.
Inspire your people with the firm belief
that by his death
you have given us everlasting life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.



SEASON OF EASTER

*The company of disciples said:
It is true – the Lord has risen*

SEE LUKE 24:34

OCTAVE OF EASTER

EASTER MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you constantly add new children
to the family of your Church.
Grant that all your people may express in their lives
the richness of the sacrament they have received in faith.

We ask this 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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH: The profession of faith is not said.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept, O Lord,
the gifts your people offer,
that, having received new life
through baptism and the confession of your name,
they may reach the joy of life everlasting.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I, page 542; interpolations for Eucharistic Prayer I, pages 705 and 706, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION


Lord,
you have set our feet on the way of salvation;
may the grace of the paschal mystery
abound in our hearts,
so that at your prompting
we may respond worthily to your generous gifts.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE: Solemn Blessing, page 916.

DISMISSAL

The deacon, or, if there is no deacon, the priest, with hands joined, sings or says one of the following dismissals. This dismissal is used during the entire octave.

A 

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

B 

Go in the peace of Christ, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

C 

The Mass is ended, go in peace, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The people answer: 

Thanks be to God, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

EASTER TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
through this Easter mystery
you have touched our lives
with the healing power of your grace.
Continue to bless your people,
so that, possessed of perfect freedom,
we may experience in heaven
the joy we now taste on earth.

We ask this 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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH: The profession of faith is not said.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Merciful Lord,
accept these offerings from your household, the Church,
that under your protection
we may hold fast to the blessings of Easter
and come to possess the gifts of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I, page 542; interpolations for Eucharistic Prayer I, pages 705 and 706, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All-powerful God,
you have given to your children
the incomparable grace of baptism.
Listen to our prayers
and prepare us for the rewards of eternal happiness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE: Solemn Blessing, page 916; Dismissal, page 133.

EASTER WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of hope,
each year you gladden our hearts
as we celebrate the mystery of Christ's resurrection.
Grant in your mercy
that through the joy of this present feast
we may possess one day
the eternal joys of heaven.

We ask this 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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH: The profession of faith is not said.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
receive the sacrifice which has redeemed the human race,
and in your mercy grant us salvation of body and spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I, page 542; interpolations for Eucharistic Prayer I, pages 705 and 706, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
let this sharing in the mystery of your Son
cleanse us from the old ways of sin
and fashion us into your new creation.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE: Solemn Blessing, page 916; Dismissal, page 133.

EASTER THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
who gathered together from the ends of the earth
a diversity of nations
to profess your holy name,
grant that all who have been reborn in the waters of baptism
may be united in faith and in holiness of life.

We ask this 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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH: The profession of faith is not said.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
accept the sacrifice we offer with joy
for those who have received new life in baptism,
and quicken within us the work of your grace.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I, page 542; interpolations for Eucharistic Prayer I, pages 705 and 706, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear our prayer, O Lord,
that this holy exchange of gifts
by which we are saved
may secure us your help in this present life
and obtain for us the joys of life eternal.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE: Solemn Blessing, page 916; Dismissal, page 133.

EASTER FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
in the paschal mystery of Christ your Son
you have established with all peoples
a new covenant of reconciliation and peace.
Grant that we may show forth in our lives
the mystery of faith we so joyfully proclaim.

We ask this 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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH: The profession of faith is not said.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Loving Lord,
by this Easter sacrament
accomplish within us the change we seek:
turn our desire for earthly things
to a longing for those of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I, page 542; interpolations for Eucharistic Prayer I,
pages 705 and 706, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
in your faithful love
watch over those you have saved,
that all who have been ransomed by the passion of your Son
may come to the joy of his resurrection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE: Solemn Blessing, page 916; Dismissal, page 133.

EASTER SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Ever-faithful God,
by the outpouring of your grace
you increase the number of those who believe in you.
Keep your chosen ones for ever safe,
so that, having been reborn in the waters of baptism,
they may be clothed in the robes of immortal glory.

We ask this 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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH: The profession of faith is not said.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
make the paschal mystery our constant joy:
may it continue within us the work of redemption
and be the cause of our unending delight.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I, page 542; interpolations for Eucharistic Prayer I, pages 705 and 706, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Protect with loving-kindness, Lord,
the people you have renewed
through the paschal mystery of Christ,
and grant them this reward:
the resurrection of the body to glory everlasting.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE: Solemn Blessing, page 916; Dismissal, page 133.

SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
whom we dare to call Father,
impart to us more fully the spirit of adoption,
that we may one day gain the inheritance you have promised.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
receive the gifts of your joyous Church.
You have given us cause for great happiness on earth;
grant us the consummation of that joy in heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Protect with loving-kindness, Lord,
the people you have renewed
through the paschal mystery of Christ,
and grant them this reward:
the resurrection of the body to glory everlasting.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
enable us to proclaim the power of Christ the Lord,
who has risen to life and vanquished death,
so that we who acknowledge this pledge of his great love
may share in the riches that it foreshadows.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
make the paschal mystery our constant joy:
may it continue within us the work of redemption
and be the cause of our unending delight.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear our prayer, O Lord,
that this holy exchange of gifts
by which we are saved
may secure us your help in this present life
and obtain for us the joys of life eternal.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

God our Creator,
each year we recall those Easter mysteries
by which human nature is restored to a dignity once lost,
and we are given the hope of rising again.
Grant in your mercy
that we may grasp and cherish always
the mysteries we recall in faith.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

O God,
through the wonderful exchange of this sacrifice
you have made us sharers in your own divine nature;
grant that our daily lives
may faithfully reflect the knowledge of your truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord,
remain close to the people
you have enriched with these heavenly mysteries,
and grant that we may pass from our former ways
to new life in the risen Christ.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

God of mercy,
grant that the grace we seek and find
when celebrating the Easter mysteries
may grow within us
and in every season bear much fruit.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
let our prayers and offerings rise before you,
that we whom you have cleansed in baptism
may respond worthily to the mystery of your great love.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

All-powerful and ever-living God,
in the resurrection of Christ you restore us to eternal life.
Increase within us the effects of this Easter mystery
and pour out in our hearts the strength of this saving food.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

For our sake, O God, you willed
that your Son should climb the scaffold of the cross
to lift from our shoulders the dark yoke of Satan.
Grant that we may come to share
the grace and power of Christ's resurrection.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Merciful Lord,
accept these offerings from your household, the Church,
that under your protection
we may hold fast to the blessings of Easter
and come to possess the gifts of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
in your faithful love
watch over those you have saved,
that all who have been ransomed by the passion of your Son
may come to the joy of his resurrection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of unfailing mercy,
who redeemed us and adopted us as your children,
look upon us with tender love,
that we who believe in Christ
may enjoy true freedom
and enter our promised inheritance.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord,
sanctify these gifts;
receive them as an offering in spirit and in truth
and make of us an everlasting gift to you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having shared in the gift of these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray, Lord God,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in remembrance of himself
may strengthen among us the bonds of love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIRD WEEK OF EASTER

MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you show the light of your truth to those who stray,
that they may return to the right path.
Grant that all who profess the Christian faith
may reject whatever is contrary to the gospel
and follow the way that leads to you.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
let our prayers and offerings rise before you,
that we whom you have cleansed in baptism
may respond worthily to the mystery of your great love.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

All-powerful and ever-living God,
in the resurrection of Christ you restore us to eternal life.
Increase within us the effects of this Easter mystery
and pour out in our hearts the strength of this saving food.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Ever-faithful God,
to those reborn of water and the Spirit
you open the gates of your heavenly kingdom.
Increase within us the grace of baptism,
that we who have been cleansed from sin
may never lack the blessings you promise.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
receive the gifts of your joyous Church.
You have given us cause for great happiness on earth;
grant us the consummation of that joy in heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Protect with loving-kindness, Lord,
the people you have renewed
through the paschal mystery of Christ,
and grant them this reward:
the resurrection of the body to glory everlasting.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Draw near to your family, Lord God,
and heed our prayer:
as you have conferred upon us the gift of faith,
award us an everlasting share
in the life of the risen Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
make the paschal mystery our constant joy:
may it continue within us the work of redemption
and be the cause of our unending delight.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Hear our prayer, O Lord,
that this holy exchange of gifts
by which we are saved
may secure us your help in this present life
and obtain for us the joys of life eternal.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God,
in this Easter season
pour out ever more richly
the saving mercy we have come to know,
so that, freed from the dark night of sin and error,
we may cling more firmly to your word of truth.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O God,
through the wonderful exchange of this sacrifice
you have made us sharers in your own divine nature;
grant that our daily lives
may faithfully reflect the knowledge of your truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
remain close to the people
you have enriched with these heavenly mysteries,
and grant that we may pass from our former ways
to new life in the risen Christ.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

God of truth,
you have given us the grace
to know and confess that the Lord is risen;
grant that through the Spirit who is love
we may rise with Christ to newness of life.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

O Lord,
sanctify these gifts;
receive them as an offering in spirit and in truth
and make of us an everlasting gift to you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Having shared in the gift of these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray, Lord God,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in remembrance of himself
may strengthen among us the bonds of love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God, our Creator and Preserver,
by the waters of baptism
you have given new birth to those who believe in you.
Protect the life they have begun in Christ
and shield them from the onslaught of sin and error,
that they may persevere faithfully
in the gift of your grace.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Merciful Lord,
accept these offerings from your household, the Church,
that under your protection
we may hold fast to the blessings of Easter
and come to possess the gifts of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
in your faithful love
watch over those you have saved,
that all who have been ransomed by the passion of your Son
may come to the joy of his resurrection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER

MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

God of power,
who raised up a fallen world
through the lowliness of your Son,
grant to your faithful people a holy joy,
so that those whom you have rescued from the slavery of sin
may delight in the happiness that never ends.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
receive the gifts of your joyous Church.
You have given us cause for great happiness on earth;
grant us the consummation of that joy in heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Protect with loving-kindness, Lord,
the people you have renewed
through the paschal mystery of Christ,
and grant them this reward:
the resurrection of the body to glory everlasting.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Merciful and faithful God,
accept this prayer,
that we who celebrate the mystery of the risen Lord
may gain the joyful inheritance
purchased for us by Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
make the paschal mystery our constant joy:
may it continue within us the work of redemption
and be the cause of our unending delight.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Hear our prayer, O Lord,
that this holy exchange of gifts
by which we are saved
may secure us your help in this present life
and obtain for us the joys of life eternal.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
life of the faithful,
glory of the humble,
and lasting happiness of the just,
respond with kindness to our prayers,
that we who thirst for the life you promise
may be filled to overflowing with your countless gifts.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O God,
through the wonderful exchange of this sacrifice
you have made us sharers in your own divine nature;
grant that our daily lives
may faithfully reflect the knowledge of your truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
remain close to the people
you have enriched with these heavenly mysteries,
and grant that we may pass from our former ways
to new life in the risen Christ.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

All-provident God,
you restored human nature to a dignity
greater than that which it lost in the beginning.
Watch over and cherish the work of your love,
and keep safe your gifts and blessings
in those who have been born again by grace.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
let our prayers and offerings rise before you,
that we whom you have cleansed in baptism
may respond worthily to the mystery of your great love.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All-powerful and ever-living God,
in the resurrection of Christ you restore us to eternal life.
Increase within us the effects of this Easter mystery
and pour out in our hearts the strength of this saving food.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of our salvation and our freedom,
you have redeemed us by the blood of your Son.
Hear the voices of your people
and grant that through you we may have life
and in you find eternal refuge.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Merciful Lord,
accept these offerings from your household, the Church,
that under your protection
we may hold fast to the blessings of Easter
and come to possess the gifts of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
in your faithful love
watch over those you have saved,
that all who have been ransomed by the passion of your Son
may come to the joy of his resurrection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and ever-living God,
keep alive within us the paschal mysteries,
that under your caring eye
we who have been renewed at the font of baptism
may bear much fruit
and attain the joys of eternal life.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

O Lord,
sanctify these gifts;
receive them as an offering in spirit and in truth
and make of us an everlasting gift to you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Having shared in the gift of these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray, Lord God,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in remembrance of himself
may strengthen among us the bonds of love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER

MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you inspire the hearts of the faithful
with a single longing.
Grant that your people
may love what you command
and desire what you promise,
so that, amid the uncertain things of this world,
our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
let our prayers and offerings rise before you,
that we whom you have cleansed in baptism
may respond worthily to the mystery of your great love.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

All-powerful and ever-living God,
in the resurrection of Christ you restore us to eternal life.
Increase within us the effects of this Easter mystery
and pour out in our hearts the strength of this saving food.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God ever-faithful,
by the resurrection of Christ your Son
you restore your people to eternal life.
Grant us a constant faith and a certain hope,
that we may never doubt that you will fulfil
the promises you have made.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
receive the gifts of your joyous Church.
You have given us cause for great happiness on earth;
grant us the consummation of that joy in heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Protect with loving-kindness, Lord,
the people you have renewed
through the paschal mystery of Christ,
and grant them this reward:
the resurrection of the body to glory everlasting.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you love innocence
and restore it in those afflicted by sin.
Direct the hearts of your servants toward you,
that those you have freed from the darkness of unbelief
may never abandon the light of your truth.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
make the paschal mystery our constant joy:
may it continue within us the work of redemption
and be the cause of our unending delight.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Hear our prayer, O Lord,
that this holy exchange of gifts
by which we are saved
may secure us your help in this present life
and obtain for us the joys of life eternal.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Most holy God,
your grace has brought us from sin to righteousness
and turned our wretchedness to joy.
Stay with us, Lord,
and do not forget the gifts you have bestowed,
that we who are justified by faith
may have the courage to persevere until the end.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O God,
through the wonderful exchange of this sacrifice
you have made us sharers in your own divine nature;
grant that our daily lives
may faithfully reflect the knowledge of your truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
remain close to the people
you have enriched with these heavenly mysteries,
and grant that we may pass from our former ways
to new life in the risen Christ.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Fashion our lives, Lord God,
in the image of the paschal mystery,
so that this joyful celebration of Christ's death and resurrection
may save and protect us with its unfailing power.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord,
sanctify these gifts;
receive them as an offering in spirit and in truth
and make of us an everlasting gift to you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having shared in the gift of these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray, Lord God,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in remembrance of himself
may strengthen among us the bonds of love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful and ever-living God,
by our rebirth in baptism
you have blessed us with divine life.
Grant that we who are called to immortality by grace
may through your continued care
come to the fullness of glory.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Merciful Lord,
accept these offerings from your household, the Church,
that under your protection
we may hold fast to the blessings of Easter
and come to possess the gifts of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
in your faithful love
watch over those you have saved,
that all who have been ransomed by the passion of your Son
may come to the joy of his resurrection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

God of mercy,
grant that the grace we seek and find
when celebrating the Easter mysteries
may grow within us
and in every season bear much fruit.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
receive the gifts of your joyous Church.
You have given us cause for great happiness on earth;
grant us the consummation of that joy in heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Protect with loving-kindness, Lord,
the people you have renewed
through the paschal mystery of Christ,
and grant them this reward:
the resurrection of the body to glory everlasting.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Let your people for ever exult, O God,
let the joy of their youth be renewed,
that we who now rejoice to be your adopted children
may look forward with certain hope
to the day of resurrection.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
make the paschal mystery our constant joy:
may it continue within us the work of redemption
and be the cause of our unending delight.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear our prayer, O Lord,
that this holy exchange of gifts
by which we are saved
may secure us your help in this present life
and obtain for us the joys of life eternal.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Grant, O God of mercy,
that just as we celebrate in faith
the solemnity of your Son's resurrection,
so we may rejoice with all the saints
when he comes again in glory.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O God,
through the wonderful exchange of this sacrifice
you have made us sharers in your own divine nature;
grant that our daily lives
may faithfully reflect the knowledge of your truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
remain close to the people
you have enriched with these heavenly mysteries,
and grant that we may pass from our former ways
to new life in the risen Christ.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

THURSDAY

The following Mass formulary is used when the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord is transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter

OPENING PRAYER

Compassionate God,
you have made your people sharers in the mystery
of redemption;
grant in your goodness
that we may exult and rejoice for ever
that Jesus our Lord is risen
and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
let our prayers and offerings rise before you,
that we whom you have cleansed in baptism
may respond worthily to the mystery of your great love.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All-powerful and ever-living God,
in the resurrection of Christ you restore us to eternal life.
Increase within us the effects of this Easter mystery
and pour out in our hearts the strength of this saving food.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of heaven and earth,
through the resurrection of your Son
you have restored us to the life of grace.
Lift up our eyes toward our Saviour
as he sits in splendour at your right hand;
and grant that when he comes again in majesty,
we who have been born to new life in baptism
may be clothed in the robes of immortal glory.

We make this prayer 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.

Or: Where the Ascension is kept on the following Sunday:

God of truth,
may the salvation promised by your holy Word
be proclaimed to the ends of the earth;
and may the fullness of our adoption,
to which Christ bore witness,
be complete in every heart.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Merciful Lord,
accept these offerings from your household, the Church,
that under your protection
we may hold fast to the blessings of Easter
and come to possess the gifts of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550, or, when the Ascension of the Lord
has been observed, Preface of the Ascension of the Lord I-III, pages 552-556, may be used.

Lord,
in your faithful love
watch over those you have saved,
that all who have been ransomed by the passion of your Son
may come to the joy of his resurrection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of light,
before your Son ascended to heaven,
he promised the apostles
that the Holy Spirit would come upon them.
As they received the riches of heavenly wisdom,
may we too be filled with the gifts of the Spirit.

We ask this 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.

Or: Where the Ascension is kept on the following Sunday:

Shape our minds, Lord, by the pursuit of good,
and set our hearts on things that are above,
that we may strive to keep the paschal mystery
ever present in our lives.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord,
sanctify these gifts;
receive them as an offering in spirit and in truth
and make of us an everlasting gift to you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550, or, when the Ascension of the Lord has been observed, Preface of the Ascension of the Lord I-III, pages 552-556, may be used.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having shared in the gift of these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray, Lord God,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in remembrance of himself
may strengthen among us the bonds of love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SOLEMNITY **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

The Ascension has always been a part of the joyful celebration of the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost but was singled out for commemoration on the fortieth day (see Acts 1:3) toward the end of the fourth century. The feast develops the glory of the resurrection by acclaiming the exaltation of Christ as Lord of heaven and earth. It serves to prepare the Church, toward the end of the season of Easter, for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Where the solemnity of the Ascension is not observed as a holyday of obligation, it is assigned to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, which is then considered its proper day in the calendar.

**OPENING
PRAYER**

Almighty God,
make our hearts dance with joy and thanksgiving;
for in the ascension of Christ, your Son,
our human nature is raised above the heavens,
and where Christ, the Head, has gone before in glory
we, his Body, are called in hope.

We make our prayer 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.

ALTERNATIVE

OPENING YEAR A
PRAYER

God of majesty,
yours is the power that raised Christ from death,
yours the glory that exalted him to your right hand.
By the mystery of the ascension,
sustain our hope
as we bear witness to our baptism.
By the perpetual outpouring of your Spirit,
confirm your Church
in its mission of salvation.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
who lives and reigns with you now and always
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

YEAR B

God of power and might,
in the mystery of the ascension
you have raised up and glorified your Son
and exalted our humanity at your right hand.
Confirm the good news your Church proclaims,
so that when Christ returns in glory
all nations may be gathered into the kingdom,
where he lives and reigns with you now and always
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

YEAR C God of majesty,
you led the Messiah
through suffering into risen life
and took him up to the glory of heaven.

Clothe us with the power
promised from on high,
and send us forth to the ends of the earth
as heralds of repentance
and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
who lives and reigns with you now and always
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

We offer you this sacrifice, Lord,
on the feast of your Son's ascension,
begging that through this holy exchange of gifts
we may rise with him to the joys of heaven.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Ascension I-III, pages 552-556; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer I, page 705, for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Almighty and eternal God,
you have entrusted to us here on earth
the mysteries that foreshadow heaven.
Draw our gaze upward
where Christ, who shares our human nature,
sits in glory at your right hand
and lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

BLESSING: Solemn Blessing, page 918.

SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER

OPENING PRAYER MONDAY

Let the power of your Holy Spirit come upon us, Lord God,
that we may keep your will faithfully before us
and express it lovingly in our lives.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may this holy and unblemished sacrifice
cleanse us from sin
and strengthen our hearts by the grace of your Spirit.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550, or Preface of the Ascension of the Lord I-III, pages 552-556.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
remain close to the people
you have enriched with these heavenly mysteries,
and grant that we may pass from our former ways
to new life in the risen Christ.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God,
send forth the Holy Spirit upon your Church
to make of us the temple where your glory dwells.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
accept the prayers of your faithful people
together with the gifts we offer,
that through these holy rites, performed with reverent hearts,
we may rise to the glory of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550, or Preface of the Ascension of
the Lord I-III, pages 552-556.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having shared in the gift of these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray, Lord God,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in remembrance of himself
may strengthen among us the bonds of love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of infinite mercy,
by the power of the Holy Spirit
gather your Church into one,
that we may dedicate ourselves entirely to you
and be one in mind and heart.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
accept the sacrifice
which we celebrate at your command
and offer as a sign of our faithful service.
Through its power accomplish within us
the holy work of your redemption.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550, or Preface of the Ascension of the Lord I-III, pages 552-556.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may our partaking in this sacrament
bring grace upon grace to your people,
and, through its power to cleanse,
make us ever more worthy
to receive this priceless gift.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God our Creator,
let your Spirit come upon the world with power
to fill us with every good gift,
that our hearts may find favour in your sight
and our wills may be shaped to accord with your own.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord,
sanctify these gifts;
receive them as an offering in spirit and in truth
and make of us an everlasting gift to you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550, or Preface of the Ascension of the Lord I-III, pages 552-556.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
grant that the mysteries we have shared
may enlighten us by the truth they express
and renew us by the life they impart,
so that our hearts may be open to the gifts of the Spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of our salvation,
by raising up your Son in glory
and by sending forth the light of your Spirit
you opened for us the gates of eternal life.
Grant that we who share in these great gifts
may grow in faith
and commit ourselves more firmly to your service.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
look with mercy on the gifts we offer,
and cleanse our hearts by the coming of the Holy Spirit,
that our sacrifice may find favour in your sight.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550, or Preface of the Ascension of the Lord I-III, pages 552-556.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,
the eucharist is our food of life
and the sacrament of our forgiveness;
grant, we pray,
that, welcomed and refreshed at your table,
we may receive the gift of life everlasting.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

SATURDAY

MASS IN THE MORNING

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty God,
grant in your goodness
that the paschal feast we have celebrated
may touch and transform our lives.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
may the coming of the Holy Spirit prepare our hearts
to celebrate these sacred mysteries,
for that same Holy Spirit is the forgiveness of all our sins.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Easter I-V, pages 542-550, or Preface of the Ascension of
the Lord I-III, pages 552-556.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord,
respond with mercy to our prayers.
You have led your people from ancient rites
to this celebration of the new covenant;
grant that we may lay aside old habits of sin
and be renewed in holiness of spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

During the weekdays of Easter, one of the following prayers over the gifts or prayers after communion may be used instead of the prayer over the gifts or prayer after communion given in place for the weekday.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

- 1 Almighty God,
through Jesus Christ, firstborn from the dead,
you gather a holy people
to set these gifts before you.
Keep us one in thought and deed,
that we may be united in your praise.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

- 2 Living God,
the wheat and the vine which spring from the earth
tell of the One you brought from death to life.
Look upon these gifts of bread and wine
and receive with them
the praise of a people
you have raised to new life.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- 1 Loving God,
as the first witnesses of the resurrection
you chose the devoted women
whose service of the Lord Jesus
led them to the tomb.
By this communion in the risen Lord
keep us steadfast in service,
that we also may have the joy of being his witnesses.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 2 Almighty and merciful God,
you have called us forth from the waters of baptism
and sealed us with your Spirit,
that we may share Christ's holy banquet.
By this Easter sacrament
free us from all that is dead and sinful,
and perfect that newness of life
which you have begun within us.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 O God,
with wonder and gratitude
we have celebrated the mystery
of Christ's victory over death.
May we who share his victory never fear death's sting,
but rather bear witness to his triumph,
until all creation sings to you the undying hymn of praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



ORDINARY TIME

*To make known with boldness
the mystery of the gospel of Christ Jesus*

SEE EPHESIANS 6:19

THURSDAY OR THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
SUNDAY AFTER

THE HOLY TRINITY This feast, originally Corpus Christi, arose in thirteenth century Belgium in response to debates about the real
SOLEMNITY presence and as a result of an upsurge in eucharistic piety. Its extension to the entire Western Church was first
decreed by Urban IV in 1264. The feast celebrates the mystery of the nourishing and enduring presence of the
body and blood of Christ in the eucharist.

Where the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ is not observed as a holy day of obligation, it is assigned to the Sunday after Trinity Sunday, which is then considered its proper day in the calendar.

If a procession with the blessed sacrament is to follow the Mass, the directions in *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass*, nos. 101-108, are followed.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
in this most wonderful sacrament
you have left us the memorial of your passion;
deepen our reverence for the mystery of your body and blood,
that we may experience within us the fruit of your redemption.

You live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING YEAR A
PRAYER

The bread you give, O God,
is Christ's flesh for the life of the world;
the cup of his blood
is your covenant for our salvation.

Grant that we who worship Christ in this holy mystery
may reverence him in the needy of this world
by lives poured out for the sake of that kingdom
where he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

YEAR B God ever-faithful,
you have made a covenant with your people
in the gift of your Son,
who offered his body for us
and poured out his blood for the many.

As we celebrate this eucharistic sacrifice,
build up your Church
by deepening within us the life of your covenant
and by opening our hearts to those in need.

We ask this 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.

YEAR C You have blessed all generations,
O God most high,
in Jesus, our compassionate Saviour,
for through him you invite us to your kingdom,
welcome us to your table,
and provide us with nourishment in abundance.

Teach us to imitate your unfailing kindness
and to build up Christ's body, the Church,
by generously handing on to others
the gifts we have received from your bounty.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Gracious Lord and God,
bestow upon your Church
the blessings of unity and peace,
of which these offerings
are the sacramental sign.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Holy Eucharist I or II, pages 596–598.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
bring us one day
to that eternal union with your Godhead,
which is prefigured here on earth
by our sharing in your sacred body and blood.

You live and reign for ever and ever.

FRIDAY FOLLOWING
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
SOLEMNITY

THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

This devotion, which dates back to the Middle Ages, flowered in France in the seventeenth century as a result of the visions of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque (16 October). The feast was extended to the entire Western Church by Pius IX in 1856. It recalls the mystery of God, who is love, and honours the heart of Jesus as the source and centre of the incarnate love of God.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty God,
as we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son,
we recall the blessings which his love showers upon us;
fill us with the gifts of grace
that flow so richly from his Sacred Heart.

We ask this 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.

OR: God of mercy,
in the heart of your Son, wounded by our sins,
you lavish upon us the boundless treasures of your love;
grant that, in offering the homage of our faithful service,
we may also make fitting reparation for our sins.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING PRAYER
YEAR A

God of love,
you set your heart upon the least of nations,
and in the heart of Jesus
you reveal your love to the merest of children.

Make us simple enough to receive your great love,
and strong enough to bear it to others.

Grant this 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.

YEAR B God of life and love,
from the pierced heart of your Son
flowed water and blood,
cleansing the world
and giving birth to your Church.

Renew within your people
the love poured out on us in baptism,
and through the blessing-cup we share
keep us always faithful
to your life-giving covenant.

We make our prayer 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.

YEAR C Eternal God,
in Christ you have sought us
with a shepherd's heart,
and we have rejoiced
to be found and restored.

Multiply in all the world
the wonders of your saving grace,
and gather your scattered people
until heaven resounds in jubilation
at humanity made whole
and creation restored.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
look upon the great love
which fills the heart of your beloved Son,
that the gifts we offer may be acceptable to you
and make atonement for our sins.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, page 602.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord our God,
may this sacrament of charity
enkindle in our hearts the flame of your love,
so that, drawn to the person of Christ your Son,
we may learn to recognise him in our brothers and sisters.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

WEEKDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

The opening prayers, prayers over the gifts, and prayers after communion for use on the weekdays in Ordinary Time are taken from the propers for the Sundays in Ordinary Time and from the First and Thirty-fourth Weeks in Ordinary Time. These prayers are arranged in the following pages in two forms for pastoral use. Texts may be freely chosen from either section.

FOUR-WEEK CYCLE OF PRAYERS

On pages 186-209 the prayers are arranged in a four-week cycle of Mass texts for weekdays. This arrangement has the advantage of offering a selection of prayers from the Sundays in Ordinary Time to avoid the repetition of the texts from the preceding Sunday throughout the weekdays that follow.

GENERAL COLLECTION OF PRAYERS

This section contains the full collection of prayers for use in Ordinary Time. The collection is subdivided into opening prayers (pages 211-248), prayers over the gifts (pages 249-256), and prayers after communion (pages 257-263). This collection makes available the full range of prayers among which careful selection may be made for weekday celebrations. The pastoral use of the large collection of opening prayers is aided by their division into thirteen general themes or categories. Each prayer is accompanied by a brief thematic phrase intended to help further in the selection process.

FOUR-WEEK CYCLE OF PRAYERS

WEEK I

MONDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Attend with kindness, Lord God,
to the cries of your people,
that we may see the things that ought to be done
and grow in the strength to do them.

We ask this 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.

Or: All-powerful God,
your incarnate Word commands our obedience
and offers us true life.
Make our ears attentive to the voice of your Son
and our hearts generous in answering his call,
that we may take up the cross with trust in his promises.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may the offering of your people be pleasing to you
and gain for us in return
an increase in holiness
and the answer to our earnest prayers.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All-powerful God,
we implore this grace:
that as you renew us with your sacraments
we may serve you with lives that are pleasing in your sight.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Direct the course of this world, Lord God,
and order it in your peace,
that your Church may serve you
in serenity and quiet joy.

We ask this 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.

Or: Compassionate God,
from far and near you gather your Church into one.
Safeguard the unity of your flock
through the teaching of Christ the Shepherd,
that all your scattered children may find in him
the guidance and nourishment they seek.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Your word, O God,
has gathered us around this table of praise.
Let the thanks we give over bread and wine
unite our lives to yours.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Gracious God,
in this holy banquet,
prepared for us in the sacrifice of your Son,
you have poured out the riches of your divine life.
Help us to pour out our lives in service,
that others may be brought to the table of your kingdom.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Show favour to your servants, O Lord,
and shower upon us the gifts of your grace,
that, eager in faith, in hope, and in love,
we may always be watchful in keeping your commandments.

We ask this 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.

Or: Living God,
you sent your Son among us
to reveal your wisdom
and make known your ways.
Increase our faith,
that we may confess Jesus as your Son,
take up his work on earth,
and trust his promise to sustain the Church.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
as this altar has been made ready,
so now prepare our lips to sing your praise
and our hearts to give you thanks.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord,
we are nourished and made whole
by the sacred body and blood of your Son.
Grant in your kindness
that the mystery we devoutly celebrate
may bring us to the fullness of redemption.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of unfailing mercy,
who redeemed us and adopted us as your children,
look upon us with tender love,
that we who believe in Christ
may enjoy true freedom
and enter our promised inheritance.

We ask this 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.

Or: Your sovereign rule, O God,
draws near to us
in the person of Jesus your Son.
Your word summons us to faith,
your power transforms our lives.

Free us to follow in Christ's footsteps,
so that neither human loyalty
nor earthly attachment
may hold us back from answering your call.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
accept these offerings,
which we have drawn from your bountiful goodness,
that by the working of your grace
these sacred mysteries may sanctify our lives on earth
and lead us to the joys of life eternal.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Creator,
you made us in your image,
that we might know you in faith
and serve you in love.
By this eucharist,
bring your people to serve with generous hearts
the needs of the human family.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
direct all our actions to accord with your holy will,
that our lives may be rich in good works
done in the name of your beloved Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Or: O God, our teacher and judge,
hear our prayer
as we gather at the table of your word.

Enrich our hearts with the goodness of your wisdom
and renew us from within,
that all our actions, all our words,
may bear the fruit of your transforming grace.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O God,
by means of sacramental signs
you bring about the work of redemption.
Grant that our worship at this altar
may be worthy of the mysteries we celebrate.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having shared in the gift of these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray, Lord God,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in remembrance of himself
may strengthen among us the bonds of love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
through the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary
you offered to the human race
the treasures of eternal salvation.
Let us experience the power of her prayers,
for through her we have received the author of life, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Or: O God,
you open wide your hand,
giving us food in due season.

Out of your never-failing abundance,
satisfy the hungers of body and soul
and lead all peoples of the earth
to the feast of the world to come.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
may this holy sacrifice cleanse us from sin,
renew us in spirit,
and gain for us the eternal reward
promised to those who do your will.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Almighty God,
may the bread we have broken
and the cup we have tasted
fill us with life and gladness
and transform us into the Christ we have received,
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

WEEK II

MONDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
whose unfailing providence rules all things
both in heaven and on earth,
listen to the cry of your people
and guide in your peace the course of our days.

We ask this 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.

Or: O God,
our very breath, our only hope,
in every age you take pity on us
and bring forth life from death.

Visit your people
and raise your Church to new life,
that we may join with all generations
in voicing our wonder and praise.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
as we place our gifts before you
teach us to worship you
in spirit and in truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
at the table of your word and sacrament
you nourish your faithful and give them life.
Grant that through these gifts of your Son
we may advance in holiness
and be worthy to share his life for ever.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you order the course of our lives
with unfailing providence.
Remove from our path whatever is harmful
and grant us those things that work to our good.

We ask this 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.

Or: Lord God,
your care for us surpasses
even a mother's tender love.

Through this word and sacrament
renew our trust in your provident care,
that we may abandon all anxiety
and seek first your kingdom.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
grant us the gift of serving at your altar
with free and generous hearts,
that your grace may cleanse us from sin
through these very mysteries
by which we offer you true worship.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of love,
you have fed us at the table of your word
and feasted us anew at the table of the eucharist.
As you give us food in such abundance,
make us attentive to the needs of others
and worthy of that heavenly banquet
you have prepared for your holy people.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy,
enfold us in your gracious care and mercy,
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use wisely the gifts of this passing world
and fix our hearts even now on those which last for ever.

We ask this 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.

Or: O God,
from whose own abundance
all gifts and skills are lavishly bestowed,
encourage us to use our talents
as generously as you have allotted them,
so that, being faithful to your purpose,
we may become sharers in your glory.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
by the offering of Christ,
made once and for all,
you adopted a people as your own;
graciously bestow on your family, the Church,
the gifts of unity and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
let the power of this sacrament
raise us up from our weakness
and fashion us into a new humanity,
restored for ever to your image.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Let your tireless grace accompany us, Lord God,
let it go before us and follow after,
that we may never slacken in our resolve
to pursue the practice of good works.

We ask this 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.

Or: God of pardon and deliverance,
your forgiving love, revealed in Christ,
has brought to birth a new creation.

Raise us up from our sins
to walk in your ways,
that we may witness to your power,
which makes all things new.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O God,
you have fulfilled the many offerings of the Old Law
in the one, perfect sacrifice of the New.
Receive the gifts of your servants
and bless them as you blessed the sacrifice of Abel,
so that what each of us has offered to your honour and glory
may advance the salvation of all.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having feasted with delight at your heavenly table,
we beg you, Lord,
that we may always hunger for that food
by which we truly live.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
the strength of all who hope in you,
accept our earnest prayer.
And since without you we are weak and certain to fall,
grant us always the help of your grace,
that in following your commands
we may please you in desire and in deed.

We ask this 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.

Or: O God,
who alone can probe the depths of the heart,
you hear the prayer of the humble
and justify the repentant sinner.

As we stand before you,
grant us the gift of humility,
that we may see our own sins clearly
and refrain from judging our neighbour.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

In these gifts, O Lord,
you provide humankind
with the food that nourishes
and the sacrament that gives us life.
Grant, we pray, that our minds and bodies
may never lack this strength and support.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Strengthened by this holy food, O Lord,
we give you thanks and seek your mercy,
that, through the outpouring of your Spirit,
those who have been touched by the power of this sacrament
may continue to live in sincerity and truth.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God,
drive from us whatever things are harmful
and make us ready in both body and mind
to accomplish your will in perfect freedom.

We ask this 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.

Or: Out of your power and compassion, O God,
you sent your Son into our afflicted world
to proclaim the day of salvation.

Heal the brokenhearted,
bind up our wounds.
Bring us health of body and spirit
and raise us to new life in your service.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
you have provided food and drink
to sustain our earthly life;
grant, we pray, that this bread and wine
may become the sacrament that gives eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
support with your unfailing help
those you nourish with this sacrament,
that we may feel the power of your redemption
in the celebration of the eucharist
and in the conduct of our lives.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEEK III

MONDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Gracious Lord and God,
grant that we may always take delight in your service,
for only through our faithfulness to you,
the author of every good,
will full and lasting happiness be ours.

We ask this 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.

Or: Father of light,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
bring to fruition the word of truth
sown in our hearts by your Son,
that we may rightly understand your commandments,
live your law of love,
and so offer you worship that is pure and undefiled.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
look with favour on the sacrifice we offer,
that the passion of your Son,
which we celebrate in these mysteries,
may become the pattern of our lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

God of blessings,
we have been fed at this table
with the bread of heaven.
Give us this food always,
that it may strengthen your love in our hearts
and inspire us to serve you in our brothers and sisters.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

TUESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
from whom every good gift proceeds,
grant that by your inspiration
we may discern those things that are right
and, by your merciful guidance, do them.

We ask this 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.

Or: God of eternal wisdom,
you alone impart the gift of right judgement.

Grant us an understanding heart,
that we may value wisely
the treasure of your kingdom
and gladly forgo all lesser gifts
to possess that kingdom's incomparable joy.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
accept the prayers of your faithful people
together with the gifts we offer,
that through these holy rites, performed with reverent hearts,
we may rise to the glory of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

In this eucharist, Lord,
you have filled us with every blessing.
Grant that we may hold fast to your saving gifts
and never cease to sing your praise.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of hosts,
from whom every good gift proceeds,
implant in our hearts the love of your name.
Nurture within us whatever is good
by binding us more closely to you,
and in your watchful care
tend the good fruit you have nurtured.

We ask this 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.

Or: God of the heavens,
God of the earth,
all creation awaits your gift of new life.

Prepare our hearts
to receive the word of your Son,
that his gospel may grow within us
and yield a harvest that is a hundredfold.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
in this wonderful exchange of gifts
accept the offerings you have given us,
that we in turn may receive the gift of yourself.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant in your mercy, Lord,
that your healing power in the eucharist
may rid us of waywardness and sin
and lead us to all that is right and good.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

God of holiness,
increase within us your gifts of faith, hope, and love,
and enable us to cherish whatever you command,
that we may come to possess all that you promise.

We ask this 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.

Or: Lord our God,
you are the one God and there is no other.

Give us grace to hear and heed
the great commandment of your kingdom,
that we may love you with all our heart
and love our neighbour as ourselves.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

As we prepare to give thanks, O Lord,
over this bread and wine,
open our hearts to proclaim your praise.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Merciful God,
you have invited us to share
in the one bread and the one cup.
Enable us to live as one in Christ
and to labour gladly for the salvation of all.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Merciful God,
you willed that by the grace of adoption
we should become children of light;
grant that we not be cloaked in the darkness of error
but rather stand forth in the splendour of truth.

We ask this 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.

Or: Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
by whose gracious will
the mysteries of the kingdom are revealed to the childlike,
make us learn from your Son humility of heart,
that in shouldering his yoke
we may find refreshment and rest.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

O God,
you provide us with gifts
to be offered to your name
and you accept them as a sign of our loving service.
In your mercy
grant that the offering you enable us to make
may obtain for us an enduring reward.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord,
increase within us the work of your saving power,
that our lives may be renewed by these holy mysteries
and your grace may prepare us for the blessings they promise.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Stir up the hearts of your faithful people, Lord God,
that they may cooperate more readily in the work of grace
and obtain in ever greater measure
the saving power of your goodness.

We ask this 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.

Or: Sovereign God, ruler of our hearts,
you call us to obedience
and sustain us in freedom.

Keep us true to the way of your Son,
that we may leave behind all that hinders us
and, with eyes fixed on him,
walk surely in the path of the kingdom,
where he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
make us worthy to celebrate this holy eucharist,
for as often as this sacrifice is offered
in remembrance of your Son,
the work of our redemption is accomplished.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Almighty God,
let the power of this sacrament
take hold of us, body and soul,
that our lives may be ruled
not by our own will
but by the working of your grace within us.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEEK IV

MONDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
fix our hearts on what is right and true,
that we may please you always
by observing your will in both word and deed.

We ask this 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.

Or: Eternal God,
you draw near to us in Christ
and make yourself our guest.

Amid the cares of our daily lives,
make us attentive to your voice
and alert to your presence,
that we may treasure your word above all else.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of peace,
as we bring our gifts to the altar
teach us to lay aside all that divides us
and make us one in praising you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of mercy,
through this holy eucharist
you make us one body in Christ.
Fashion us in his likeness here on earth,
that we may be ready to share his company in heaven,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

TUESDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you show the light of your truth to those who stray,
that they may return to the right path.
Grant that all who profess the Christian faith
may reject whatever is contrary to the gospel
and follow the way that leads to you.

We make our prayer 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.

Or: God of justice,
rock of our salvation,
open our minds and hearts to Jesus, your Son.

Let us hold fast to his words
and express them in deeds,
that our faith may be built on a sure foundation
and our lives be judged worthy of you.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
wellspring of peace and true worship,
let our offering come before you
as fitting homage to your glory,
and let our partaking of these sacred mysteries
unite our hearts in faith.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Give us new life, Lord God,
through the divine gift we have offered and received,
so that, bound to you in unending love,
we may bring forth fruit that remains.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God,
from whom every blessing flows,
only by your gift
do your people offer you fitting service and praise;
grant, we beseech you,
that we may hasten without stumbling
toward the joys that you promise.

We ask this 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.

Or: O God,
protector of the poor and defender of the just,
in your kingdom the last become first,
the gentle are strong,
and the lowly exalted.

Give us wisdom from above,
that we may find in your servant Jesus
the pattern of true discipleship
and the grace to persevere in following him,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord,
sanctify these gifts;
receive them as an offering in spirit and in truth
and make of us an everlasting gift to you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,
eternal beauty, wisdom everlasting,
today we have tasted
the joys of heaven's unending feast.
We beg you now,
extend the grace of this celebration,
that heaven's joys may be known and shared
in what we do on earth.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

THURSDAY

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you inspire the hearts of the faithful
with a single longing.
Grant that your people
may love what you command
and desire what you promise,
so that, amid the uncertain things of this world,
our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found.

We ask this 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.

Or: O God,
whose image we bear
and whose name we carry,
yours is the world and all it contains.

Recall us to our true allegiance,
so that above the powers and rulers of this world
you alone may claim our fullest loyalty and love.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
let the offering we dedicate to your name
cleans us and reshape us day by day
with the new life of your kingdom.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

God of mercy,
pour forth upon us the Spirit of your love,
that we who have been nourished
by the one bread from heaven
may be one in mind and heart.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth,
your almighty power is shown above all
in your willingness to forgive and show mercy;
let your grace descend upon us without ceasing,
that we may strive for the things you have promised
and come to share the treasures of heaven.

We ask this 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.

Or: O God most high,
you are slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Keep alive in us the memory of your mercy,
that our angers may be calmed
and our resentments dispelled.
May we discover the forgiveness
promised to those who forgive
and become a people rich in mercy.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

We place before you, Creator God,
gifts that you yourself have given,
fashioned into bread and wine by human hands.
Pour out the gifts of your grace,
that our lives may be shaped and sanctified
to the eternal glory of your name.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of majesty,
receive our humble prayer:
just as you nourish us
with the most holy body and blood of your Son,
so let us partake of his divine nature,
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

SATURDAY

OPENING PRAYER

For those who love you, Lord,
you have prepared blessings which no eye has seen;
fill our hearts with longing for you,
that, loving you in all things and above all things,
we may obtain your promises,
which exceed every heart's desire.

We ask this 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.

Or: Lord God of all the ages,
the One who is, who was, and who is to come,
stir up within us a longing for your kingdom,
steady our hearts in time of trial,
and grant us patient endurance
until the sun of justice dawns.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
accept these sacred gifts
which you bid us consecrate to your name.
Keep us always obedient to your commands,
so that through this offering
we may become worthy of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface for General Use I-VII, pages 574-586.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All-powerful God,
by giving us a share in these divine mysteries
you have gladdened our hearts.
Stay with us now
and let us never be separated from you.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

GENERAL COLLECTION OF PRAYERS FOR USE IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING PRAYERS

The collection of opening prayers for use in Ordinary Time are grouped together by the following themes:

- Church, *nos. 1-6*, page 211
- Conversion, *nos. 7-16*, page 213
- Discipleship, *nos. 17-32*, page 216
- Eucharist, *nos. 33-42*, page 220
- Healing, *nos. 43-49*, page 223
- Justice/Peace, *nos. 50-62*, page 225
- Kingdom, *nos. 63-76*, page 229
- Praise, *nos. 77-80*, page 233
- Reconciliation, *nos. 81-86*, page 235
- Virtues, *nos. 87-107*, page 237
- Wisdom, *nos. 108-111*, page 242
- Word of God, *nos. 112-120*, page 243
- General, *nos. 121-130*, page 246

PRAYERS OVER THE GIFTS

- General, *nos. 1-40*, page 249

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

- General, *nos. 1-39*, page 257

CHURCH

1 *The Church, called
to active witness*

(5A)

Heavenly Father,
you have called your Church
to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Give us vigorous faith and a love that is genuine,
so that all may see our works
and give you the glory.

We make our prayer 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.

2 *For peace in the
world and serene service
of God*

(8)

Direct the course of this world, Lord God,
and order it in your peace,
that your Church may serve you
in serenity and quiet joy.

We ask this 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.

3 *The Church, called
to faithful witness*

(15B)

God of justice, God of salvation,
from every land you call a people to yourself.
Yours is the work we do,
yours the message we carry.

Keep your Church single-minded and faithful to you.
Let failure not discourage us
nor success beguile our hearts,
as you send us to proclaim the gospel.

We make our prayer 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.

4 *For the unity
of the Church*

(16B)

Compassionate God,
from far and near you gather your Church into one.

Safeguard the unity of your flock
through the teaching of Christ the Shepherd,
that all your scattered children may find in him
the guidance and nourishment they seek.

We ask this 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.

5 *For trust and faith
in time of trial*

(19A)

God of all power,
your sovereign word comes to us in Christ.

When your Church is in danger, make firm our trust;
when your people falter, steady our faith.
Show us in Jesus your power to save,
that we may always acclaim him as Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

6 *For unity through
mutual love*

(23A)

Confirm, O God, in unity and truth
the Church you gather in Christ.

Encourage the fervent,
enlighten the doubtful,
and bring back the wayward.
Bind us together in mutual love,
that our prayer in Christ's name
may be pleasing to you.

Grant this 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.

CONVERSION

7 *For strength to
embrace the gospel*

(4C)

God of salvation,
in your Prophet, Jesus the Christ,
you announce freedom
and summon us to conversion.

As we marvel at the grace and power of your word,
enlighten us to see the beauty of the gospel
and strengthen us to embrace its demands.

Grant this 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.

8 *God's forgiving love
renews all things*

(7B)

God of pardon and deliverance,
your forgiving love, revealed in Christ,
has brought to birth a new creation.

Raise us up from our sins
to walk in your ways,
that we may witness to your power,
which makes all things new.

Grant this 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.

9 *God's wisdom
transforms our lives*

(8C)

O God, our teacher and judge,
hear our prayer
as we gather at the table of your word.

Enrich our hearts with the goodness of your wisdom
and renew us from within,
that all our actions, all our words,
may bear the fruit of your transforming grace.

We make our prayer 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.

10 *God's providence
guides our lives*

(9)

O God,
you order the course of our lives
with unfailing providence.
Remove from our path whatever is harmful
and grant us those things that work to our good.

We ask this 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.

11 *For the grace to
follow God's commands*

(11)

O God,
the strength of all who hope in you,
accept our earnest prayer.
And since without you we are weak and certain to fall,
grant us always the help of your grace,
that in following your commands
we may please you in desire and in deed.

We ask this 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.

12 *God's creative
word transforms fear
into faith*

(12B)

In the beginning, O God,
your Word subdued the chaos;
in the fullness of time
you sent Jesus, your Son,
to rebuke the forces of evil
and bring forth a new creation.

By that same power,
transform all our fear
into faith and awe in your saving presence.

We ask this 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.

13 *For the faith
that saves*

(13B)

God of the living,
in whose image we have been formed
with imperishable life as our destiny,
dispel from your people the fear of death
and awaken within us the faith that saves.
Bid us rise from the death of sin
to take our place in the new creation.

We make our prayer 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.

14 *For holy joy
and unending delight*

(14)

God of power,
who raised up a fallen world
through the lowliness of your Son,
grant to your faithful people a holy joy,
so that those whom you have rescued from the slavery of sin
may delight in the happiness that never ends.

We ask this 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.

15 *Turn from sin
and joyfully follow
the gospel*

(30B)

Have pity on us, God our Saviour.
Grant us grace and courage to cast off our sins
and turn to you for healing.
Show us in Christ the sure path of salvation
and strengthen us to follow gladly
in the way of the gospel.

We ask this 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.

16 *God teaches
humble service
in Christ*

(31A)

Sovereign God,
we have no father but you,
no teacher but Christ.

Conform our lives to the faith we profess,
preserve us from arrogance and pride,
and teach us in Christ the greatness of humility and service.

We make our prayer 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.

DISCIPLESHIP

17 *Sharing God's call
to be disciples*

(2B)

From our earliest days, O God,
you call us by name.

Make our ears attentive to your voice,
our spirits eager to respond,
that, having heard you in Jesus your anointed one,
we may draw others to be his disciples.

We ask this 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.

18 *For freedom
to answer God's call
in Christ*

(3B)

Your sovereign rule, O God,
draws near to us
in the person of Jesus your Son.
Your word summons us to faith,
your power transforms our lives.

Free us to follow in Christ's footsteps,
so that neither human loyalty
nor earthly attachment
may hold us back from answering your call.

We ask this 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.

19 *The Church, called
to be a household
of true disciples*

(10B)

God our Redeemer,
in Jesus, your promised Messiah,
you crushed the power of Satan.

Sustain your Church in the struggle against evil,
that, hearing your word and doing your will,
we may be fashioned into a household of true disciples
who share in the victory of the cross.

Grant this 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.

20 *Following Christ
to the cross and true life*

(12C)

O God,
whose Son, our Messiah and Lord,
did not turn aside from the path of suffering
nor spare his disciples the prospect of rejection,
pour out your Spirit upon this assembly,
that we may abandon the security of the easy way
and follow in Christ's footsteps
toward the cross and true life.

Grant this 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.

21 *Becoming God's
children of truth and light*

(13)

Merciful God,
you willed that by the grace of adoption
we should become children of light;
grant that we not be cloaked in the darkness of error
but rather stand forth in the splendour of truth.

We ask this 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.

22 *For zeal and
perseverance as heralds
of the gospel*

(14C)

Boundless, O God, is your saving power;
your harvest reaches to the ends of the earth.

Fill our hearts with zeal for your kingdom
and place on our lips the tidings of peace.
Grant us perseverance as heralds of the gospel
and joy as disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

23 *The Spirit moves us
to witness to God's love*

(26B)

Pour out your Spirit, O God, over all the world
to inspire every heart
with knowledge and love of you.
Grant that we who confess Jesus as Lord
may shun whatever is contrary to this faith
and give witness to your love
that has saved us in Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

24 *Finding the right
path by the light
of God's truth*

(15)

O God,
you show the light of your truth to those who stray,
that they may return to the right path.
Grant that all who profess the Christian faith
may reject whatever is contrary to the gospel
and follow the way that leads to you.

We make our prayer 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.

25 *Imitating God's
healing compassion*

(15C)

In Christ you draw near to us,
God of mercy and compassion,
lifting us out of death,
binding up our wounds,
and nursing our spirits back to health.

Let such a tenderness as yours compel us
to go and do likewise.

Grant this 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.

26 *For grace
to remain faithful
to Christ*

(21B)

In every age, O God,
you give your people freedom
to walk in faith
or to turn away.

Grant us grace
to remain faithful to your Holy One,
whose words are spirit and life,
Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

27 *For freedom
to answer the call
of Christ*

(28B)

God of wisdom,
whose word probes the motives of our hearts,
with you all things are possible.

Let worldly treasure not keep us from Jesus,
who looks on us with love.
Free us to leave all things and follow him,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

28 *For courage
to bear witness to Christ*

(12A)

True and faithful God,
you give courage to the fearful
and endurance to martyrs.

Sustain us as followers of your Son Jesus,
that with boldness and conviction
we may acknowledge him before the world.

We ask this 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.

29 *God gives new and
indestructible life*

(32C)

God of all the living,
in the resurrection of Christ Jesus
you have given us the life
which even death cannot destroy.

Remember your unshakeable promise
and strengthen us to live in this world
as your new creation.

We ask this 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.

30 *For delight in
God's service*

(33)

Gracious Lord and God,
grant that we may always take delight in your service,
for only through our faithfulness to you,
the author of every good,
will full and lasting happiness be ours.

We ask this 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.

31 *The courage to lose
our lives for Christ*

(24B)

Make us one, O God,
in acknowledging Jesus the Christ.
As we proclaim him by our words,
let us follow him in our works;
give us strength to take up the cross
and courage to lose our lives for his sake.

We ask this 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.

32 *For generous use
of God-given talents*

(33A)

O God,
from whose own abundance
all gifts and skills are lavishly bestowed,
encourage us to use our talents
as generously as you have allotted them,
so that, being faithful to your purpose,
we may become sharers in your glory.

We make our prayer 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.

EUCCHARIST

33 *God satisfies all
human hungers*

(17B)

O God,
you open wide your hand,
giving us food in due season.

Out of your never-failing abundance,
satisfy the hungers of body and soul
and lead all peoples of the earth
to the feast of the world to come.

We make our prayer 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.

34 *Sharing the gift
of the food of life*

(18A)

Bountiful and compassionate God,
you place in the hands of your disciples
the food of life.

Nourish us at your holy table,
that we may bear Christ to others
and share with them
the gifts we have so richly received.

We make our prayer 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.

35 *Work no longer
for food that perishes*

(18B)

Lord, giver of lasting life,
satisfy our hunger through Christ, the bread of life,
and quench our thirst with your gift of belief,
that we may no longer work for food that perishes,
but believe in the One whom you have sent.

We ask this 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.

36 *God invites all
to heaven's feast*

(28A)

God of goodness and kindness,
you invite all peoples to the banquet
and offer them a feast beyond compare.

Give us your saving grace
to keep unstained the robe of our baptism
until that day when you welcome us
to heaven's joyful table.

We ask this 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.

37 *God sustains
a pilgrim people*

(19B)

God our Father and provider,
whose Son has given his flesh for the life of the world,
sustain your pilgrim Church on its journey
with the word of life and the bread of heaven.
Draw us nearer to him in whose name we gather,
that, following his way of sacrificial love,
we may come to the banquet of eternal life.

Grant this 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.

38 *Keep alert for the
coming of God's kingdom*

(19C)

O God,
on whom our faith rests secure
and whose kingdom we await,
sustain us by word and sacrament
and keep us alert for the coming of the Son of Man,
that we may welcome him without delay.

We ask this 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.

39 *Sharing the table
of unity and hope*

(20B)

Wise and gracious God,
you spread a table before us
and nourish your people with the word of life
and the bread from heaven.

In our sharing of these holy gifts,
show us our unity in you
and give us a taste of the life to come.

We make our prayer 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.

40 *We are called to
the banquet of
the kingdom*

(21C)

To the banquet of your kingdom,
O God of the nations,
you have invited people of every race and tongue.

May all who are called to a place at your table
come by the narrow way
to the unending feast of life.

We make our prayer 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.

41 *The Church, called
to the wedding feast*

(32A)

Brighten your Church, O God,
with the promise of your kingdom
and waken our hearts to its light.
Bid us hasten with faith undimmed
to greet the bridegroom's return
and to enter the wedding feast.

We ask this 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.

42 *God offers
salvation and faith to all*

(20A)

God of the nations,
to your table all are invited
and in your family no one is a stranger.

Satisfy the hunger
of those gathered in this house of prayer,
and mercifully extend to all the peoples on earth
the joy of salvation and faith.

Grant this 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.

HEALING

43 *Proclaiming God's
power to heal and save*

(4B)

Faithful God,
your Holy One, Jesus of Nazareth,
spoke the truth with authority,
and you confirmed his teaching by wondrous deeds.

Through his healing presence,
drive far from us all that is unholy,
so that by word and deed
we may proclaim him Messiah and Lord
and bear witness to your power to heal and save.

We ask this 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.

44 *God heals us in our
brokenness*

(5B)

Out of your power and compassion, O God,
you sent your Son into our afflicted world
to proclaim the day of salvation.

Heal the brokenhearted,
bind up our wounds.
Bring us health of body and spirit
and raise us to new life in your service.

We make our prayer 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.

45 *Divine mercy
heals sinners*

(10A)

O God,
whose judgement shines like the light of day,
you invite sinners and outcasts
to the banquet of salvation.

Heal our pride and self-righteousness
as you send down upon us
the gentle rain of your mercy.

We make our prayer 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.

46 *In God's mercy
we learn to be rich
in mercy*

(24A)

O God most high,
you are slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Keep alive in us the memory of your mercy,
that our angers may be calmed
and our resentments dispelled.
May we discover the forgiveness
promised to those who forgive
and become a people rich in mercy.

We ask this 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.

47 *For renewed
obedience to God's
gracious design*

(27B)

Creator God,
in Christ you call man and woman
to the fullness of glory
for which you created them in your image.

Heal our hardened hearts,
renew our obedience to your spoken will,
and conform our lives to your gracious design.

Grant this 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.

48 *In faith we are
healed and give thanks*

(28C)

O God,
our life, our health, our salvation,
look with mercy on your people.
Stir up in us a saving faith,
that believing, we may be healed,
and being healed, we may worthily give you thanks.

We ask this 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.

49 *God heals us
of division and prejudice*

(6B)

We come before you, O God,
confident in Christ's victory over sickness and death.

Heal us again
from sin, which divides us,
and from prejudice, which isolates us.
Bring us to wholeness of life
through the pardon you grant your people.

We ask this 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.

JUSTICE / PEACE

50 *For knowledge and
strength to do what
is right*

(1)

Attend with kindness, Lord God,
to the cries of your people,
that we may see the things that ought to be done
and grow in the strength to do them.

We ask this 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.

51 *God's providence
guides our days in peace*

(2)

Almighty God,
whose unfailing providence rules all things
both in heaven and on earth,
listen to the cry of your people
and guide in your peace the course of our days.

We ask this 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.

52 *Love God and
neighbour*

(4)

Teach us, Lord God,
to worship you with undivided hearts
and to cherish all people with true and faithful love.

We ask this 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.

53 *Hungering for holiness and working for peace*

(4A)

O God,
teach us the hidden wisdom of the gospel,
so that we may hunger and thirst for holiness,
work tirelessly for peace,
and be counted among those
who seek first the blessedness of your kingdom.

We ask this 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.

54 *For love of enemies*

(7A)

Heavenly Father,
in Christ Jesus
you challenge us to renounce violence
and to forsake revenge.

Teach us to recognise as your children
even our enemies and persecutors
and to love them without measure or discrimination.

We ask this 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.

55 *God rewards those who keep to the path of justice*

(22C)

God and judge of all,
you show us that the way to your kingdom
is through humility and service.

Keep us true to the path of justice
and give us the reward promised to those
who make a place for the rejected and the poor.

We ask this 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.

56 *Keeping the two great commandments*

(25)

Lord our God,
upon the two commandments
to love you and to love our neighbour
you have founded all your holy law.
Give us the grace to keep these commandments
and so inherit eternal life.

We ask this 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.

57 *Continuing God's
work for integrity and
justice*

God our Saviour,
you call us into your service.

(25C)

Make us wise and resourceful:
children of the light who continue your work in this world
with untiring concern for integrity and justice.

We ask this 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.

58 *Working for the
growth of the kingdom*

Yours, O God, is the vineyard and its harvest,
yours the kingdom of justice and peace.
You call your people to tend its growth.

(27A)

Bless the work entrusted to our hands,
that we may offer you
an abundance of just works,
a rich harvest of peace.

We ask this 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.

59 *God answers our
constant prayer*

Lord, tireless guardian of your people,
always ready to hear the cries of your chosen ones,
teach us to rely, day and night, on your care.

(29C)

Support our prayer lest we grow weary.
Impel us to seek your enduring justice
and your ever-present help.

Grant this 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.

60 *Reflecting God's
love and mercy*

(30A)

Your love, O God, is boundless.
We who were strangers
have been made your children.
We who were defenceless
have been brought into your household.

Keep us mindful of your deeds of mercy,
that we may love you with our whole heart
and love our neighbour as ourselves.

We ask this 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.

61 *For the gift
of humility*

(30C)

O God,
who alone can probe the depths of the heart,
you hear the prayer of the humble
and justify the repentant sinner.

As we stand before you,
grant us the gift of humility,
that we may see our own sins clearly
and refrain from judging our neighbour.

We make our prayer 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.

62 *Showing God's
justice and mercy
in our lives*

(31C)

Just and merciful God,
true Lord of every house,
sure delight of every heart,
come into our midst today
to speak your word and satisfy our hunger.
Enable us to see you clearly,
to welcome you with joy,
and to give justice and mercy
a place in our lives.

Grant this 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.

KINGDOM

63 *For a foretaste
of the new wine
of the age to come*

(2C)

God of wonders,
at Cana in Galilee
you revealed your glory in Jesus Christ
and summoned all humanity
to life in him.

Show to your people gathered on this day
your transforming power
and give us a foretaste
of the wine you keep
for the age to come.

We make our prayer 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.

64 *For eagerness
to embrace the gospel*

(3A)

God of salvation,
the splendour of your glory
dispels the darkness of earth,
for in Christ we behold
the nearness of your kingdom.

Now make us quick to follow where he beckons,
eager to embrace the tasks of the gospel.

We ask this 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.

65 *Seek first God's
kingdom*

(6C)

O God,
who alone can satisfy our deepest hungers,
protect us from the lure of wealth and power;
move our hearts to seek first your kingdom,
that ours may be the security and joy
of those who place their trust in you.

We make our prayer 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.

66 *God's tender care
overcomes anxiety*

(8A)

Lord God,
your care for us surpasses
even a mother's tender love.

Through this word and sacrament
renew our trust in your provident care,
that we may abandon all anxiety
and seek first your kingdom.

We make our prayer 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.

67 *God renews
the covenant of love*

(8B)

God of tenderness,
desire of the human heart,
you led your people into the desert
and made them your own in love and fidelity.

By this word and sacrament
renew with us your covenant of love,
so that, forsaking the ways of the past,
we may embrace the new life of the kingdom.

We make our prayer 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.

68 *Praise and charity,
pledge of the kingdom
to come*

(9B)

Holy God,
you sanctified this day
as a time for rest and worship.

As its blessed hours unfold,
place on our lips canticles of praise
and in our hearts the charity of Christ,
that this day may be a pledge and foretaste
of the eternal kingdom yet to come.

We ask this 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.

69 *Announce the
coming of the kingdom*

(11A)

Compassionate God,
your word calls labourers to the harvest.

Send us who are blest with the gift of your kingdom
to announce its coming with gladness
and to manifest its healing power.

We make our prayer 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.

70 *Trusting in God's
hidden ways*

(11B)

O God,
at whose bidding the seed will sprout
and the shoot grow toward full stature,
hear the prayer of your assembled people.

Make us trust in your hidden ways,
that we may pray with confidence
and wait for your kingdom now growing in our midst.

We ask this 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.

71 *For fidelity
to God's call*

(13C)

Sovereign God, ruler of our hearts,
you call us to obedience
and sustain us in freedom.

Keep us true to the way of your Son,
that we may leave behind all that hinders us
and, with eyes fixed on him,
walk surely in the path of the kingdom,
where he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

72 *Treasure God's kingdom*

(17A)

God of eternal wisdom,
you alone impart the gift of right judgement.

Grant us an understanding heart,
that we may value wisely
the treasure of your kingdom
and gladly forgo all lesser gifts
to possess that kingdom's incomparable joy.

We make our prayer 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.

73 *True joy is found in God's commands and promises*

(21)

O God,
you inspire the hearts of the faithful
with a single longing.
Grant that your people
may love what you command
and desire what you promise,
so that, amid the uncertain things of this world,
our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found.

We ask this 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.

74 *For steadiness as we await Christ's return*

(33B)

Your creation, O God,
runs its appointed course,
as from the ends of the earth
you gather a people you call your own.

Confirm us in the strength of your abiding word.
Steady our hearts in the time of trial,
so that on the day of the Son of Man
we may without fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

We ask this 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.

75 *For patience and
longing for the kingdom*

(33C)

Lord God of all the ages,
the One who is, who was, and who is to come,
stir up within us a longing for your kingdom,
steady our hearts in time of trial,
and grant us patient endurance
until the sun of justice dawns.

We make our prayer 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.

76 *For a place
in God's kingdom*

(29B)

Most glorious God,
in Jesus you show us
that your will is to save.

Grant to us your people
the boldness to desire a place in your kingdom,
the courage to drink the cup of suffering,
and the grace to find in service
the glory you promise.

We ask this 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.

PRAISE

77 *God raises
the Church to new life*

(10C)

O God,
our very breath, our only hope,
in every age you take pity on us
and bring forth life from death.

Visit your people
and raise your Church to new life,
that we may join with all generations
in voicing our wonder and praise.

We make our prayer 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.

78 *God's truth and
love blossom in the
worship we offer*

(22B)

Father of light,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
bring to fruition the word of truth
sown in our hearts by your Son,
that we may rightly understand your commandments,
live your law of love,
and so offer you worship that is pure and undefiled.

Grant this 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.

79 *God's mercy seeks
us out*

(24C)

Undaunted you seek the lost, O God,
exultant you bring home the found.

Touch our hearts with grateful wonder
at the tenderness of your forbearing love.
Grant us delight in the mercy that has found us
and bring all to rejoice at the feast of forgiveness.

We ask this 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.

80 *For joy in God's
service*

(31)

Almighty and merciful God,
from whom every blessing flows,
only by your gift
do your people offer you fitting service and praise;
grant, we beseech you,
that we may hasten without stumbling
toward the joys that you promise.

We ask this 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.

RECONCILIATION

81 *The Church,
called to witness to God's
reconciling purpose*

(2A)

Merciful God,
you sent your Son, the spotless Lamb,
to take upon himself the sin of the world.

Make our lives holy,
that your Church may bear witness to your purpose
of reconciling all things in Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

82 *Sharing in God's
compassion*

(7C)

Compassionate God and Father,
you are kind to the ungrateful,
merciful even to the wicked.

Pour out your love upon us,
that with good and generous hearts
we may keep from judging others
and learn your way of compassion.

We make our prayer 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.

83 *God's pardon is
reflected in our
forgiveness*

(11C)

Compassionate God,
you gather your people in prayer
and lavish your gifts upon us anew.

Sinners that we are,
you have forgiven us much.
Grant that our experience of your pardon
may increase our love
until it reflects your own immeasurable forgiveness.

We make our prayer 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.

84 *God's power is
shown in mercy*

(26)

God of heaven and earth,
your almighty power is shown above all
in your willingness to forgive and show mercy;
let your grace descend upon us without ceasing,
that we may strive for the things you have promised
and come to share the treasures of heaven.

We ask this 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.

85 *Following the way
of repentance and faith*

(26A)

O God,
you alone judge rightly
and search the depths of the heart.

Make us swift to do your will
and slow to judge our neighbour,
that we may walk with those
who follow the way of repentance and faith
and so enter your heavenly kingdom.

Grant this 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.

86 *For heartfelt
observance of God's law*

(6A)

All-seeing God,
you alone judge rightly our inmost thoughts.

Teach us to observe your law from the heart
even as we keep it outwardly.
Purify our desires,
calm every anger,
and reconcile us to one another.
Then will our worship at your altar
render you perfect praise.

We make our prayer 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.

VIRTUES

87 *God abides with
the faithful and just*

(6)

O God,
you promise to remain with those
whose hearts are faithful and just.
By the gift of your grace
make our lives worthy of your abiding presence.

We ask this 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.

88 *For minds and
hearts open to Jesus*

(9A)

God of justice,
rock of our salvation,
open our minds and hearts to Jesus, your Son.

Let us hold fast to his words
and express them in deeds,
that our faith may be built on a sure foundation
and our lives be judged worthy of you.

Grant this 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.

89 *For God's saving
gift of faith*

(9C)

God of the nations,
whose will it is that all be saved
and come to knowledge of the truth,
grant that your gift of faith
may be alive in every heart,
so that, unworthy as we are,
we may welcome your Son
and find healing in his word.

We ask this 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.

90 *For humility
of heart*

(14A)

Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
by whose gracious will
the mysteries of the kingdom are revealed to the childlike,
make us learn from your Son humility of heart,
that in shouldering his yoke
we may find refreshment and rest.

We ask this 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.

91 *Seeing and
welcoming Christ*

(14B)

God of the prophets,
in every age you send the word of truth,
familiar yet new,
a sign of contradiction.

Let us not be counted among those who lack faith,
but give us the vision
to see Christ in our midst
and to welcome your saving word.

We ask this 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.

92 *Living by God's
gifts of grace*

(16)

Show favour to your servants, O Lord,
and shower upon us the gifts of your grace,
that, eager in faith, in hope, and in love,
we may always be watchful in keeping your commandments.

We ask this 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.

93 *For the enduring
gifts of God*

(17)

O God,
protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy,
enfold us in your gracious care and mercy,
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use wisely the gifts of this passing world
and fix our hearts even now on those which last for ever.

We ask this 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.

94 *For true freedom
as God's adopted children*

(23)

God of unfailing mercy,
who redeemed us and adopted us as your children,
look upon us with tender love,
that we who believe in Christ
may enjoy true freedom
and enter our promised inheritance.

We ask this 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.

95 *Serving God
with undivided hearts*

(24)

O God,
Creator and Ruler of all that is,
look kindly upon the prayers of your servants:
grant that we may serve you with undivided hearts
and so experience the power of your mercy.

We ask this 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.

96 *Welcoming God's
mercy toward others*

(25A)

God most high,
your ways are not our ways,
for your kindness is lavished equally upon all.

Teach us to welcome your mercy toward others,
even as we hope to receive mercy ourselves.

We ask this 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.

97 *God's mercy
is abundant*

(27)

Almighty and eternal God,
whose bounty is greater than we deserve or desire,
pour out upon us your abundant mercy;
forgive the things that weigh upon our consciences
and enrich us with blessings
for which our prayers dare not hope.

We ask this 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.

98 *For deeper and
more manifest faith*

(27C)

God, the rock of our salvation,
whose gifts can never fail,
deepen the faith you have already bestowed
and let its power be seen in your servants.

We make our prayer 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.

99 *For loyalty to God
above all else*

(29A)

O God,
whose image we bear
and whose name we carry,
yours is the world and all it contains.

Recall us to our true allegiance,
so that above the powers and rulers of this world
you alone may claim our fullest loyalty and love.

We make our prayer 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.

100 *For the growth
of God's grace within us*

(30)

God of holiness,
increase within us your gifts of faith, hope, and love,
and enable us to cherish whatever you command,
that we may come to possess all that you promise.

We ask this 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.

101 *For grace to hear
and heed God's great
commandment*

(31B)

Lord our God,
you are the one God and there is no other.

Give us grace to hear and heed
the great commandment of your kingdom,
that we may love you with all our heart
and love our neighbour as ourselves.

We make our prayer 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.

102 *Trust God and
hold back nothing*

(32B)

God, our provider,
you are the orphan's hope
and the widow's bread.

Strengthen our faith,
that with simplicity of heart
we may come to trust in you alone
and hold back nothing in serving you.

Grant this 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.

103 *Cooperating in the
work of grace*

(34)

Stir up the hearts of your faithful people, Lord God,
that they may cooperate more readily in the work of grace
and obtain in ever greater measure
the saving power of your goodness.

We ask this 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.

104 *For the grace and
resolve to practice
good works*

(28)

Let your tireless grace accompany us, Lord God,
let it go before us and follow after,
that we may never slacken in our resolve
to pursue the practice of good works.

We ask this 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.

105 *Giving God
undivided service*

(29)

God ever faithful and true,
form our wills at all times to accord with your own,
and so direct our hearts,
that we may render you undivided service.

We ask this 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.

106 *Following God's will, our lives become rich in good works*

(3)

Almighty and eternal God,
direct all our actions to accord with your holy will,
that our lives may be rich in good works
done in the name of your beloved Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

107 *God implants and nurtures whatever is good*

(22)

God of hosts,
from whom every good gift proceeds,
implant in our hearts the love of your name.
Nurture within us whatever is good
by binding us more closely to you,
and in your watchful care
tend the good fruit you have nurtured.

We ask this 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.

WISDOM

108 *Discerning and doing what is right*

(10)

Almighty God,
from whom every good gift proceeds,
grant that by your inspiration
we may discern those things that are right
and, by your merciful guidance, do them.

We ask this 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.

109 *God's wisdom and ways are made known in Jesus*

(21A)

Living God,
you sent your Son among us
to reveal your wisdom
and make known your ways.

Increase our faith,
that we may confess Jesus as your Son,
take up his work on earth,
and trust his promise to sustain the Church.

We ask this 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.

110 *For wisdom to discern and do God's work*

(23C)

God of the ages,
you call the Church to keep watch in the world
and to discern the signs of the times.

Grant us the wisdom which your Spirit bestows,
that with courage we may proclaim your prophetic word
and complete the work you have set before us.

We make our prayer 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.

111 *For wisdom and grace to persevere in true discipleship*

(25B)

O God,
protector of the poor and defender of the just,
in your kingdom the last become first,
the gentle are strong,
and the lowly exalted.

Give us wisdom from above,
that we may find in your servant Jesus
the pattern of true discipleship
and the grace to persevere in following him,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

WORD OF GOD

112 *Receiving and proclaiming the gospel of salvation*

(3C)

Lord God,
whose compassion embraces all peoples,
whose law is wisdom, freedom, and joy for the poor,
fulfil in our midst your promise of favour,
that we may receive the gospel of salvation with faith
and, anointed by the Spirit, freely proclaim it.

Grant this 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.

113 *Witnessing
to God's saving word
in Christ*

(5C)

Most holy God,
the earth is filled with your glory,
and in your presence angels stand in awe.

Enlarge our vision,
that we may recognise your power at work in your Son
and join the apostles and prophets
as heralds of your saving word.

We ask this 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.

114 *For generosity in
answering God's call*

(13A)

All-powerful God,
your incarnate Word commands our obedience
and offers us true life.

Make our ears attentive to the voice of your Son
and our hearts generous in answering his call,
that we may take up the cross with trust in his promises.

We ask this 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.

115 *God sows
the word of Christ
in our hearts*

(15A)

God of the heavens,
God of the earth,
all creation awaits your gift of new life.

Prepare our hearts
to receive the word of your Son,
that his gospel may grow within us
and yield a harvest that is a hundredfold.

We ask this 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.

116 *Treasure God's
word above all else*

(16C)

Eternal God,
you draw near to us in Christ
and make yourself our guest.

Amid the cares of our daily lives,
make us attentive to your voice
and alert to your presence,
that we may treasure your word above all else.

We ask this 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.

117 *God's word
conforms our lives
to the gospel*

(18C)

O God,
the giver of every gift that endures,
only by your grace can we rightly understand
the wonder of life
and why it is given.

By the word of your Son
challenge our foolishness,
confront our greed,
and shape our lives
to the wisdom of the gospel.

We ask this 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.

118 *For courage
to proclaim and live
by God's word*

(22A)

O God,
whose word burns like a fire within us,
grant us a bold and faithful spirit,
that in your strength we may be unafraid
to speak your word
and follow where you lead.

We make our prayer 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.

119 *Proclaiming Christ
in our every word
and work*

(23B)

God of power and compassion,
in Christ you reveal your will
to heal and to save.

Open our ears to your redeeming word
and move our hearts by the strength of your love,
so that our every word and work
may proclaim as Messiah
Jesus the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

120 *Heeding God's
word*

(26C)

O God of justice,
hear our cry and save us.
Make us heed your word to the prophets;
rouse us to the demand of the gospel
and impel us to carry it out.

We ask this 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.

GENERAL

121 *For God's
unfailing care*

(5)

Watch over your household, Lord, with unfailing care,
that we who rely solely on the hope of your grace
may always be sheltered by your protection.

We ask this 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.

122 *Observing God's
will in word and deed*

(7)

Almighty God,
fix our hearts on what is right and true,
that we may please you always
by observing your will in both word and deed.

We ask this 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.

123 *For reverence and
love of God's name*

(12)

Lord God,
teach us to hold your holy name
both in awe and in lasting affection,
for you never fail to help and govern
those whom you establish in your steadfast love.

We ask this 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.

124 *God plants the
seed and produces the
harvest*

(16A)

O God, patient and forbearing,
you alone know fully
the goodness of what you have made.

Strengthen our spirit when we are slow
and temper our zeal when we are rash,
that in your own good time
you may produce in us a rich harvest
from the seed you have sown and tended.

We make our prayer 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.

125 *For the gift
of God's Spirit*

(17C)

Provident Father,
with the prayer your Son taught us always on our lips,
we ask, we seek, we knock at your door.

In our every need,
grant us the first and best of all your gifts,
the Spirit who makes us your children.

We ask this 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.

126 *God made us
and restores us*

(18)

Lord,
be present to your servants who call upon you,
and bless us with your unfailing kindness.

Since we glory to have you as our maker and ruler,
restore in us the beauty of your creation
and keep intact the gifts you have restored.

We ask this 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.

127 *For the inheritance God has promised*

(19)

Almighty and eternal God,
whom we dare to call Father,
impart to us more fully the spirit of adoption,
that we may one day gain the inheritance you have promised.

We ask this 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.

128 *For love of God in and above all things*

(20)

For those who love you, Lord,
you have prepared blessings which no eye has seen;
fill our hearts with longing for you,
that, loving you in all things and above all things,
we may obtain your promises,
which exceed every heart's desire.

We ask this 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.

129 *For strength in time of trial*

(20C)

To set the earth ablaze, O God,
your Son submitted to a baptism unto death,
and from his cup of suffering
you call the Church to drink.

Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus
and give us strength in time of trial
to run the race that lies before us.

We ask this 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.

130 *For freedom to do God's will*

(32)

Almighty and merciful God,
drive from us whatever things are harmful
and make us ready in both body and mind
to accomplish your will in perfect freedom.

We ask this 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.

PRAYERS OVER THE GIFTS

GENERAL

- 1 Lord,
may the offering of your people be pleasing to you
and gain for us in return
an increase in holiness
and the answer to our earnest prayers.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 2 Lord God,
make us worthy to celebrate this holy eucharist,
for as often as this sacrifice is offered
in remembrance of your Son,
the work of our redemption is accomplished.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

- 3 In your kindness, Lord,
accept our gifts and make them holy,
that they may become the sacrament of our salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

- 4 Lord,
in reverent service
we place these gifts upon your altar;
receive them into your sight
and make them the sacrament of our redemption.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

- 5 Lord God,
you have provided food and drink
to sustain our earthly life;
grant, we pray, that this bread and wine
may become the sacrament that gives eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

- 6 Lord,
may this holy sacrifice cleanse us from sin,
renew us in spirit,
and gain for us the eternal reward
promised to those who do your will.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
- 7 Lord,
as we celebrate these mysteries
with fitting reverence,
grant that the offering we make
to the glory of your name
may lead us to salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
- 8 O God,
you provide us with gifts
to be offered to your name
and you accept them as a sign of our loving service.
In your mercy
grant that the offering you enable us to make
may obtain for us an enduring reward.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
- 9 With confidence in your mercy, Lord God,
we hasten to place these gifts on your holy altar,
that your grace may cleanse us from sin
through the very sacrament
by which we offer you true worship.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
- 10 Look kindly, Lord, upon our worship and praise,
that our offering may be acceptable to you
and cause us to grow in your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

11 In these gifts, O Lord,
you provide humankind
with the food that nourishes
and the sacrament that gives us life.
Grant, we pray, that our minds and bodies
may never lack this strength and support.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

12 Accept, O Lord,
this sacrifice of reconciliation and praise,
that its working may cleanse us from sin
and make our hearts a gift pleasing to you.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

13 O God,
by means of sacramental signs
you bring about the work of redemption.
Grant that our worship at this altar
may be worthy of the mysteries we celebrate.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

14 Lord God,
let the offering we dedicate to your name
cleanse us and reshape us day by day
with the new life of your kingdom.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

15 Lord,
look kindly on the gifts of your Church gathered in prayer,
and grant to the faithful who will receive them
an increase in holiness and grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

16 O God,
you have fulfilled the many offerings of the Old Law
in the one, perfect sacrifice of the New.
Receive the gifts of your servants
and bless them as you blessed the sacrifice of Abel,
so that what each of us has offered to your honour and glory
may advance the salvation of all.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

17 Lord,
accept these offerings,
which we have drawn from your bountiful goodness,
that by the working of your grace
these sacred mysteries may sanctify our lives on earth
and lead us to the joys of life eternal.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord,

18 O Lord,
sanctify these gifts;
receive them as an offering in spirit and in truth
and make of us an everlasting gift to you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

19 Lord,
accept from your Church these gifts,
which in your mercy you have given us to offer
and which by your power
you transform into the sacrament of our salvation.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

20 Lord God,
in this wonderful exchange of gifts
accept the offerings you have given us,
that we in turn may receive the gift of yourself.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord,

21 Lord,
by the offering of Christ,
made once and for all,
you adopted a people as your own;
graciously bestow on your family, the Church,
the gifts of unity and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

22 Lord,
may this eucharistic offering
bless us always with your saving grace
and accomplish in our lives
the redemption that it signifies.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

23 Lord God,
wellspring of peace and true worship,
let our offering come before you
as fitting homage to your glory,
and let our partaking of these sacred mysteries
unite our hearts in faith.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

24 Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,
and receive with favour these gifts of your servants,
that what each of us has offered to the glory of your name
may advance the salvation of us all.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord,

25 Take to yourself, O Lord, the gifts your people offer,
that in this holy sacrament
we may enter the mystery
which we profess with devotion and faith.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord,

26 God of mercy,
look with favour upon our offering,
and in this eucharist
open to us the source
from which all blessings flow.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord,

27 Lord God,
accept the sacrifice
which we celebrate at your command
and offer as a sign of our faithful service.
Through its power accomplish within us
the holy work of your redemption.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

28 Lord,
accept the prayers of your faithful people
together with the gifts we offer,
that through these holy rites, performed with reverent hearts,
we may rise to the glory of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

29 Lord God,
grant us the gift of serving at your altar
with free and generous hearts,
that your grace may cleanse us from sin
through these very mysteries
by which we offer you true worship.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord,

30 God of majesty,
look with favour on the gifts we offer,
and grant that this expression of our service
may be directed above all to your glory.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

- 31 Lord God,
let this sacrifice
be a pure and spotless offering to you,
and let it bring to us
the rich outpouring of your mercy.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
- 32 Lord God,
look with favour on the sacrifice we offer,
that the passion of your Son,
which we celebrate in these mysteries,
may become the pattern of our lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord,
- 33 God of majesty,
may the offering we make in your sight
obtain for us the grace of true service
and win us the prize of everlasting happiness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
- 34 Lord,
accept these sacred gifts
which you bid us consecrate to your name.
Keep us always obedient to your commands,
so that through this offering
we may become worthy of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
- 35 Lord God,
as we place our gifts before you
teach us to worship you
in spirit and in truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
- 36 God of peace,
as we bring our gifts to the altar
teach us to lay aside all that divides us
and make us one in praising you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

37 Your word, O God,
has gathered us around this table of praise.
Let the thanks we give over bread and wine
unite our lives to yours.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

38 Lord God,
as this altar has been made ready,
so now prepare our lips to sing your praise
and our hearts to give you thanks.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

39 As we prepare to give thanks, O Lord,
over this bread and wine,
open our hearts to proclaim your praise.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

40 We place before you, Creator God,
gifts that you yourself have given,
fashioned into bread and wine by human hands.
Pour out the gifts of your grace,
that our lives may be shaped and sanctified
to the eternal glory of your name.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

GENERAL

- 1 All-powerful God,
we implore this grace:
that as you renew us with your sacraments
we may serve you with lives that are pleasing in your sight.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 2 God of mercy,
pour forth upon us the Spirit of your love,
that we who have been nourished
by the one bread from heaven
may be one in mind and heart.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 3 Grant, all-powerful God,
that we who receive in this eucharist
your life-giving grace
may always delight in your blessings.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

- 4 Nourished with the sacrament of our redemption,
we ask you, Lord, that by its saving power
true faith may always grow and prosper.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 5 Merciful God,
you have invited us to share
in the one bread and the one cup.
Enable us to live as one in Christ
and to labour gladly for the salvation of all.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

- 6 Having feasted with delight at your heavenly table,
we beg you, Lord,
that we may always hunger for that food
by which we truly live.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 7 All-powerful God,
grant that we may come to the fullness of salvation,
which is pledged to us through this eucharistic mystery.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 8 Merciful Lord,
we have feasted at your banquet of salvation.
Through this sacrament,
which nourishes our lives on earth,
make us sharers in eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 9 Lord God,
you nourish us with the body and blood of your Son.
Rule our lives by your Holy Spirit,
that we may commit ourselves to you
not only in word
but in action and in truth,
and so enter the kingdom of heaven.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 10 Grant in your mercy, Lord,
that your healing power in the eucharist
may rid us of waywardness and sin
and lead us to all that is right and good.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 11 Lord,
as the communion we have received
prefigures the union of all the faithful in you,
so may its power
bring unity and peace to your Church.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 12 Lord,
we are nourished and made whole
by the sacred body and blood of your Son.
Grant in your kindness
that the mystery we devoutly celebrate
may bring us to the fullness of redemption.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 13 Give us new life, Lord God,
through the divine gift we have offered and received,
so that, bound to you in unfailing love,
we may bring forth fruit that remains.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 14 In this eucharist, Lord,
you have filled us with every blessing.
Grant that we may hold fast to your saving gifts
and never cease to sing your praise.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 15 Nourished by these holy gifts,
we pray to you, Lord,
that each time we celebrate this mystery
your work of salvation may grow within us.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 16 Lord,
remain close to the people
you have enriched with these heavenly mysteries,
and grant that we may pass from our former ways
to new life in the risen Christ.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.
- 17 We have shared, Lord, in the sacrament
which is the lasting memorial of your Son's passion.
Grant, we pray,
that this gift of his surpassing love
may bring us closer to our salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

18 Lord,
surround with your constant protection
the people you renew by this eucharist,
and in your never-failing care for us
make us worthy of eternal redemption.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

19 Merciful God,
let our sharing in this sacrament
deliver us from evil
and make us stand firm in the light of your truth.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

20 God of mercy,
through this holy eucharist
you make us one body in Christ.
Fashion us in his likeness here on earth,
that we may be ready to share his company in heaven,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

21 Complete within us, Lord,
the healing work of your mercy,
and by your grace transform and strengthen us,
that we may please you in all that we do.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

22 God of blessings,
we have been fed at this table
with the bread of heaven.
Give us this food always,
that it may strengthen your love in our hearts
and inspire us to serve you in our brothers and sisters.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

23 Lord,
at the table of your word and sacrament
you nourish your faithful and give them life.
Grant that through these gifts of your Son
we may advance in holiness
and be worthy to share his life for ever.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

24 Almighty God,
let the power of this sacrament
take hold of us, body and soul,
that our lives may be ruled
not by our own will
but by the working of your grace within us.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

25 Lord,
support with your unfailing help
those you nourish with this sacrament,
that we may feel the power of your redemption
in the celebration of the eucharist
and in the conduct of our lives.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

26 Gracious God,
let this holy mystery restore us in mind and body,
that we who proclaim the death of Christ
and are joined to his suffering
may become co-heirs with him in glory,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

27 Almighty God,
may the bread we have broken
and the cup we have tasted
fill us with life and gladness
and transform us into the Christ we have received,
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

28 God of majesty,
receive our humble prayer:
just as you nourish us
with the most holy body and blood of your Son,
so let us partake of his divine nature,
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

29 Foster your life within us, Lord,
by the celebration of the heavenly mysteries:
bless us with your help from day to day
and so prepare our hearts for the world to come.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

30 Lord,
may your mysteries accomplish within us
the salvation they embody,
that we may come to possess in truth
what we celebrate now under sacramental signs.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

31 Lord,
increase within us the work of your saving power,
that our lives may be renewed by these holy mysteries
and your grace may prepare us for the blessings they promise.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

32 Strengthened by this holy food, O Lord,
we give you thanks and seek your mercy,
that, through the outpouring of your Spirit,
those who have been touched by the power of this sacrament
may continue to live in sincerity and truth.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

33 Having shared in the gift of these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray, Lord God,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in remembrance of himself
may strengthen among us the bonds of love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

34 All-powerful God,
by giving us a share in these divine mysteries
you have gladdened our hearts.
Stay with us now
and let us never be separated from you.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

35 Gracious God,
in this holy banquet,
prepared for us in the sacrifice of your Son,
you have poured out the riches of your divine life.
Help us to pour out our lives in service,
that others may be brought to the table of your kingdom.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

36 God of love,
you have fed us at the table of your word
and feasted us anew at the table of the eucharist.
As you give us food in such abundance,
make us attentive to the needs of others
and worthy of that heavenly banquet
you have prepared for your holy people.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

37 Lord God,
let the power of this sacrament
raise us up from our weakness
and fashion us into a new humanity,
restored for ever to your image.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

38 O God,
eternal beauty, wisdom everlasting,
today we have tasted
the joys of heaven's unending feast.
We beg you now,
extend the grace of this celebration,
that heaven's joys may be known and shared
in what we do on earth.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

39 God our Creator,
you made us in your image,
that we might know you in faith
and serve you in love.
By this eucharist,
bring your people to serve with generous hearts
the needs of the human family.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE PROPER OF SAINTS

*To know with all the saints
the breadth and length and height and depth
of the love of Christ*

SEE EPHESIANS 3:18-19

THE PROPER OF SAINTS

1 The rank of the celebrations (solemnity, feast, or memorial) is indicated for each day. If there is no indication, it is an optional memorial.

2 For each solemnity and feast a proper Mass is provided in its entirety. This is therefore used as given.

3 For memorials:

1. Proper texts, given on some days, should always be used.

2. When there is a reference to a particular common, appropriate texts should be chosen according to the principles listed at the beginning of the commons. The page reference in each case indicates only the beginning of the common to which reference is made.

3. If the reference is to more than one common, one or the other may be used, according to pastoral need. For example, if a saint is both a martyr and a bishop, either the common of martyrs or the common of pastors (popes and other bishops) may be used.

In this edition, corresponding prayers from the same common have been grouped together to facilitate choosing the most appropriate text.

4. In addition to the commons which express a special characteristic holiness (for example, of martyrs or pastors), the texts from the common of other saints, referring to holiness in general, may always be used.

For example, in the case of a saint who is both a virgin and a martyr, texts from the common of other holy men and women may be used, in addition to texts from the common of martyrs or the common of other saints, virgins.

5. The prayers over the gifts and after communion, unless there are proper prayers, may be taken either from the common or from the current liturgical season.

4 The Masses in the proper may also be celebrated as Votive Masses, with the exception of Masses of the mysteries of the life of the Lord and of the blessed Virgin Mary and Masses of certain saints for whom a special Votive Mass is provided. When Masses from the proper are used as Votive Masses, words in the prayers referring to the day of death or to the solemnity or feast are omitted and *memorial* or *commemoration* is substituted. If the opening antiphon, **Rejoice in the Lord today**, occurs, it is to be replaced by another antiphon from the respective common.

JANUARY

2 JANUARY MEMORIAL **BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN,** BISHOPS, DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

Basil was born about 330 at Caesarea (Turkey) and died there on 1 January 379. He was first a hermit, then bishop of his native city. He is remembered for his pioneering monastic rule and for his writings, which developed the doctrine of the incarnation and of the divinity of the Holy Spirit.

Gregory, born at Nazianzus (Turkey) in 329, died there in 389. He also was a hermit before becoming bishop of Constantinople, and was known as the “Theologian” because of his wisdom and acumen in maintaining orthodox doctrine against the Arians.

Basil and Gregory are remembered together because of their friendship in life and their enduring influence on the Church, especially in the East.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
you have enlightened your Church
through the example and teaching of Saint Basil and Saint Gregory;
grant that we may humbly learn your truth
and practice it with faithful love.

We ask this 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.

7 JANUARY

RAYMOND OF PENYAFORT, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS

Born about 1175 near Barcelona (Spain), Raymond died there in extreme old age on 6 January 1275. He became a canon of the cathedral but soon after joined the Dominicans, eventually being elected their master general. He is remembered for his knowledge of canon law, especially in its application to the sacrament of penance, and for his scholarly apostolate to Jews and Muslims.

OPENING PRAYER

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

Lord our God,
you gave your holy priest Raymond
a heart filled with compassion for sinners;
grant through his prayers
that, released from slavery to sin,
we may do your will in perfect freedom.

We ask this 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.

13 JANUARY **HILARY**, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Hilary was born in Poitiers (France) about 315 and died there on this day in 368. A married man with a family, he became a Christian and was elected bishop of his native city. He was called the “Athanasius of the West” because of his strenuous defence of the divinity of Christ against the Arians, for which he was exiled by the emperor. He is remembered for his gentle, courteous, and friendly nature and for his contribution to the Western understanding of the Trinity.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty God,
grant that we may rightly understand and truthfully profess
the divinity of your Son,
which the bishop Hilary so tirelessly defended.

We ask this 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.

17 JANUARY ANTHONY, ABBOT
MEMORIAL

Born in 251 in upper Egypt, Anthony died in 356. He gave away his possessions and sought the austere life and solitude of the desert at an early age. He attracted disciples who formed communities of hermits. The account of his life by Saint Athanasius (2 May) was extremely influential in the development and spread of monasticism. Yet Anthony remained involved in the theological controversies of his day, defending the divinity of Christ. He is venerated as the father of monasticism.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you called the abbot Anthony into the desert
to serve you in a new and wonderful manner of life;
grant by his intercession
that we may practice self-denial
and persevere in loving you above all things.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept, O Lord, the gifts
which we, your servants, have placed on your altar
as we keep the memory of blessed Anthony;
free us from the burden of worldly cares,
that our hearts may treasure you alone.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Nourished by the sacrament of redemption,
we pray, O God,
that, as you made blessed Anthony triumphant
over the powers of darkness,
we too may overcome
the snares of the enemy.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

20 JANUARY FABIAN, POPE, MARTYR

Fabian became bishop of Rome in 236, in spite of being “a layman and a stranger” (Eusebius). He reorganised the Church in Rome and was one of the first victims of the persecution under the emperor Decius in 250. He was celebrated by his contemporary, Saint Cyprian (16 September), as a man incomparable in the holiness of his life and the glory of his death.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a pope), page 450.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, glory of your priests,
grant through the intercession of your martyr Fabian
that we may grow in the faith we share with him
and offer you fitting service.

We ask this 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.

20 JANUARY

SEBASTIAN, MARTYR

Sebastian has been venerated in Rome since the fourth century, though nothing of his life is known for certain. He may have been a soldier who was martyred in the late third century after sustaining others in their trials.

OPENING PRAYER

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445.

Lord,
bestow on us the gift of courage,
and teach us through the heroic example
of your martyr Sebastian
to place obedience to you above all human commands.

We ask this 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.

21 JANUARY **AGNES, VIRGIN, MARTYR**
MEMORIAL

Agnes died at Rome, perhaps in the early fourth century. She is one of the most widely venerated of the Roman martyrs. According to early accounts, she gave her life to preserve her virginity consecrated to Christ. Agnes is remembered in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon).

Common of Martyrs: virgin martyr, page 448; or Common of Other Saints: virgins, page 463.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
you choose what the world considers weak
to put worldly power to shame;
grant that we who celebrate
the birth of your martyr Agnes into eternal joy
may imitate her strong and steadfast faith.

We ask this 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.

22 JANUARY **VINCENT, DEACON, MARTYR**

Vincent, a deacon of Saragossa (Spain), was martyred in Valencia during the persecution of the emperor Diocletian in 304. His cult spread rapidly through the whole Church of the West. He is honoured as the first martyr of Spain.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
pour out your Spirit upon us
and fill our hearts with a love stronger than death,
that love which enabled the deacon Saint Vincent
to conquer the torments of his martyrdom.

We ask this 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.

24 JANUARY **FRANCIS DE SALES**, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER,
MEMORIAL DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Born in Savoy (France) in 1567, Francis died in Lyons in 1622. As a presbyter and as bishop of Geneva, he played a major part in the renewal of French Catholicism in the seventeenth century and is seen by many as an early proponent of ecumenical dialogue. With Saint Jane Frances de Chantal (12 December) he founded the Visitation order, and his writings promoted a spirituality for laypeople. Francis de Sales is remembered as a most influential preacher, writer, and spiritual director, who combined firmness with patience and gentleness.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you enabled the holy bishop Francis de Sales
to become all things to all people
in order to win their salvation;
grant that, following his example,
we may always manifest your gentle love
in the service of our neighbour.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Through the life-giving sacrifice we offer you, Lord,
enkindle in us that fire of your Spirit
which burned so brightly
in the gentle heart of Saint Francis.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Grant, almighty God,
that through the sacrament we have received
we may imitate here on earth the gentleness
and love of Saint Francis
and so be joined with him in heavenly glory.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

25 JANUARY **THE CONVERSION OF PAUL, APOSTLE**

FEAST

This date, first linked with the conversion of Saint Paul in the so-called *Martyrdom of Jerome* (c. 431), became established in the liturgy of Gaul. It celebrates the work of God's grace at a major turning point in the life of Paul himself and in the history of the infant Church.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you taught the gospel to the whole world
by the preaching of the apostle Paul;
grant that we who today celebrate his conversion
may follow his example in our journey to you
and bear witness before the world to your saving truth.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

As we celebrate these sacred mysteries,
grant, O Lord, that the Holy Spirit may fill our hearts
with the same light of faith
which inspired the apostle Paul
to make your glory known to the nations.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I, page 632.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord our God,
let the sacrament we have received
ignite in us that fire of love
which inflamed the heart of the apostle Paul
with zealous care for all the Churches.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

26 JANUARY **TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS**
MEMORIAL

Timothy and Titus were disciples and associates of Saint Paul the apostle (29 June) who attended the Council of Jerusalem with him, and to whom the pastoral letters of the New Testament are addressed. Timothy represented Saint Paul to various communities and, according to tradition, was eventually placed in charge of the Church at Ephesus. Titus was asked to organise the Church in Crete, where he died toward the end of the first century.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you endowed Saint Timothy and Saint Titus
with the virtues of the apostles;
grant through their intercession
that we may live justly and devoutly in this world
and come at last to our home in heaven.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reign with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

27 JANUARY **ANGELA MERICI, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER, EDUCATOR**

Born in Desenzano (Italy) about 1474, Angela died in Brescia on this day in 1540. She became a Franciscan tertiary and subsequently founded the Company of Saint Ursula (Ursulines). Her vision provided an alternative to the forms of religious life then available for women: members remained in their own homes, living as virgins and observing a rule she composed. Angela is remembered as a woman of prayer, for her evangelical way of life, for her pilgrimages, and for her creative response to the needs of women in the Church.

Common of Other Saints: virgins, page 463, or educators, page 467.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
may the virgin Saint Angela Merici
commend us always to your loving-kindness,
so that, following the example of her charity and prudence,
we may hold fast to your teaching
and bear witness to it in our lives.

We ask this 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.

28 JANUARY **THOMAS AQUINAS, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS,**
MEMORIAL **DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

Born near Aquino (Italy) about 1225, Thomas became a Dominican in 1244 and died on his way to the Council of Lyons in 1274. Educated at Monte Cassino, Naples, Paris, and Cologne, he is regarded as one of the greatest theologians in the history of the Church. Even though Aquinas's writings faced ecclesiastical opposition in his time, the substance of his life's work has endured as an authentic exposition of Christian teaching and carries unique official approval. He is remembered for his modesty, the prayerfulness of his personal life, and the abiding influence of his thought.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461; or
Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you made Saint Thomas Aquinas
outstanding for his pursuit of sacred doctrine
and his thirst for holiness;
grant us light to understand his teaching
and grace to imitate his holy life.

We ask this 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.

31 JANUARY **JOHN BOSCO, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER, EDUCATOR**
MEMORIAL

Born in Piedmont (Italy) in 1815, John died at Turin on this day in 1888. He grew up in extreme poverty and, after ordination to the presbyterate, devoted his whole life to educating young people, especially the poor. For this he founded the Salesians, men and women who continue this work with youth throughout the world. Like the order's patron, Saint Francis de Sales (24 January), John is remembered for his cheerfulness and total trust in the providence of God.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: educators, page 467, or
religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you raised up your priest John Bosco
as father and teacher to the young.
Inflame our hearts with love like his,
that we may work for the salvation of souls
and devote ourselves to your service alone.

We ask this 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.

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Opening Song and Lighting of Candles

Greeting

Introduction

Blessing of the Candles

Procession

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

CONCLUDING RITE

FEBRUARY

2 FEBRUARY THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

FEAST

This feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century and was adopted at Rome during the seventh century. It is celebrated forty days after Christmas to commemorate the prescribed Mosaic ritual following the birth of a child. The feast recalls the encounter of Jesus with Simeon and Anna in the temple—the Lord meets his people. It celebrates Christ as “the light to enlighten all nations,” and so candles are blessed during the introductory rites and carried in the entrance procession.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

The introductory rites are celebrated in a chapel or some other suitable place where the faithful can easily take part, either outside the church where Mass will be celebrated or in the church itself. The priest and deacon, wearing white Mass vestments, and the ministers go to the place where the people, holding unlighted candles, have assembled. The priest may wear a cope instead of a chasuble; in this case he removes the cope and puts on the chasuble after the procession.

OPENING SONG AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES: While the candles are being lighted, the antiphon **Look, our Lord shall come with power** from the Antiphonal, page 1224, or another suitable song is sung.

GREETING

After making the sign of the cross, the priest greets the people, using the following greeting or one of the greetings from the Order of Mass.

The Lord be with you.

The people answer:

And also with you.

INTRODUCTION

The priest or deacon gives a brief introduction, inviting the faithful to participate fully in the celebration. He may use the following or similar words.

Dear friends,
forty days have passed
since we celebrated the joyful feast
of the birth of the Lord.
Today we recall the holy day
when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple.
They were presenting him in accordance with the law,
while he was fulfilling the prophecy
that the Lord would come to his temple
and visit those who believed in him.

Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple,
recognised Christ as their Lord,
and proclaimed him with joy.
Called together by that same Holy Spirit,
let us now go to the house of God
to welcome Christ the Lord.
There we shall recognise him in the breaking of the bread
until he comes again in glory.

After **Let us pray** and the pause for silent prayer, the priest, with hands outstretched,
blesses the candles, using one of the following prayers.

**BLESSING
OF THE
CANDLES**

Lord God,
unquenchable source of light,
on this day you revealed to the just man Simeon
the light to enlighten all nations.
Bless + these candles and make them holy.
Accept the prayers of your people,
who will carry them in praise of your name,
that they may walk in the path of goodness
until they reach that light which never fails.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or: Almighty God,
true light of the world
and source of light eternal,
shine upon the hearts of the faithful,
that all in this holy temple
who are brightened by the glow of these candles
may advance with joy toward the light of your glory.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The priest sprinkles the candles with holy water in silence. He then takes the candle
prepared for him.

PROCESSION

Before the procession begins, the deacon or the priest may invite the people to process,
using the following invitation or similar words.

Let us go forth in peace to meet the Lord.

The procession then begins. If incense is used, the thurifer goes first carrying a censer with burning incense, followed by the crossbearer between two ministers holding lighted candles, then the deacon carrying the Book of Gospels, the ministers, the priest, and finally the congregation carrying lighted candles.

During the procession, the antiphon **A light to shine upon the nations** with the Cantic of Simeon from the Antiphonal, page 1224, or the *Gloria*, or another suitable song is sung.

When the priest comes to the altar, he venerates it and may also incense it. Then he goes to the chair (and removes the cope and puts on the chasuble). The opening prayer is sung or said and the Mass continues in the usual way.

OPENING
PRAYER

God of power and majesty,
your only-begotten Son,
having taken upon himself our flesh and blood,
was presented this day in the temple;
bring us also into your presence
with hearts that are cleansed and purified.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING
PRAYER

Inspired by your Spirit, Lord,
we gather in your temple to welcome your Son.

Enlighten our minds
and lay bare our inmost thoughts.
Purify your people, and make us obedient to the demands of your law,
so that we may mature in wisdom
and grow to full stature in your grace.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
be pleased with the gift
offered to you this day by a joyful Church,
for in obedience to your will
your only Son offered himself
as a spotless lamb for the life of the world.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Presentation of the Lord, page 588.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Through this holy banquet, O God,
make your grace perfect in us,
and as you satisfied the longing of Simeon
that he would not see death
before he had welcomed the Messiah,
grant that we, going forth to meet the Lord,
may also embrace the gift of eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 FEBRUARY **BLASE**, BISHOP, MARTYR

Blase, a bishop in Armenia, is believed to have been martyred in the early fourth century during the persecution of the emperor Licinius. Known as a healer, he has been venerated since the eighth century and is specially invoked to intercede for protection against diseases of the throat.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord,
hear the prayers your people offer
under the protection of the martyr Saint Blase;
grant that we may enjoy peace in this present life
and find strength on our journey to life eternal.

We ask this 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.

3 FEBRUARY ANSGAR, BISHOP, MISSIONARY

Born at Amiens (France) in 801, Ansgar died on this day at Bremen (Germany) in 865. He was a monk and then a bishop in north Germany. Eloquent in his preaching and austere in his lifestyle, he is remembered for opposing slavery and for persevering in his evangelisation of Denmark and Sweden in the face of major setbacks.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450, or missionaries, page 458.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,
you sent the holy bishop Ansgar
to bring the light of Christ to many peoples;
grant through his intercession
that we too may always walk in the light of your truth.

We ask this 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.

5 FEBRUARY AGATHA, VIRGIN, MARTYR MEMORIAL

Agatha was a virgin martyred in Sicily, perhaps during the persecutions of the third century. She has been venerated in Rome on this day since the sixth century and is included by name in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon). In legend she is remembered for her faith and for remaining resolute under torture.

Common of Martyrs: virgin martyr, page 448; or Common of Other Saints: virgins, page 463.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
bestow on us your pardon
in answer to the prayers of Saint Agatha,
who won favour in your sight
by her purity as a virgin
and her courage as a martyr.

We ask this 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.

6 FEBRUARY MEMORIAL **PAUL MIKI, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY, MARTYR,
AND HIS COMPANIONS, MARTYRS**

This group of twenty-six martyrs was crucified at Nagasaki (Japan) on 5 February 1597. Most were Japanese and most were laypeople, some still youths. They were the first of many martyrs in a young Church. Paul Miki, aged thirty-five years at his death, was a Jesuit scholastic from an aristocratic Japanese family. He is remembered as a notable preacher who inspired the local Church of his time and in the centuries that followed to be strong in faith during persecution and isolation.

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
strength of all the saints,
you called Saint Paul Miki and his companions
to find life through death on the cross;
grant that by their prayers
we too may hold fast until death
to the faith we profess.

We ask this 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.

8 FEBRUARY **JEROME EMILIANI, EDUCATOR, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**

Born in Venice (Italy), Jerome died of the plague on this day in 1537. He was an army officer who, after imprisonment, began a new life of service among the sick and destitute. He is remembered for his care and education of orphaned and homeless children, a ministry continued by the Somaschi, an order of clergy which he founded.

Common of Other Saints: educator, page 467, or religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

God, the Father of mercies,
you raised up Saint Jerome Emiliani
to be a father and guide to orphaned children;
grant through his intercession
that we may faithfully cherish the spirit of adoption
by which we are called, and truly are, your children.

We ask this 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.

10 FEBRUARY **SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS**
MEMORIAL

Scholastica was born at Norcia (Italy) about 480 and died near Monte Cassino in the 540s. Like Saint Benedict (11 July), her brother and by tradition her twin, she dedicated herself to God through the monastic life and is remembered for her part in establishing Benedictine monasticism.

Common of Other Saints: virgins, page 463, or religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord,
as we keep the memory of the holy virgin Scholastica,
we pray that through her example
we may serve you with an undivided heart
and experience the joy and power of your love.

Grant this 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.

11 FEBRUARY **OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

Observed since 1907, this memorial celebrates the immaculate Virgin Mary as honoured in Lourdes (France). This site of apparitions to the young Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 has become a focus of devotion to Mary. It is a place of prayer and pilgrimage, of conversion and healing for Christians from every land.

Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Ordinary Time, page 434.

OPENING
PRAYER

God of compassion,
protect us in our weakness,
and grant that we who keep the memory
of the immaculate Mother of God
may rise from our sins through her intercession.

We ask this 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.

14 FEBRUARY MEMORIAL **CYRIL, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY,
AND METHODIUS, BISHOP, MISSIONARY**

Cyril and Methodius were brothers from Thessalonica (Greece). Cyril was born about 826 and died at Rome in 869; Methodius was born about 815 and died in Velehrad (Czech Republic) in 885. With papal approval they preached the gospel in Moravia using their own translations of the Scriptures and the liturgy in the local language. These translations into Slavonic were based on an alphabet they invented, now called Cyrillic. The success of their preaching aroused jealous Frankish opposition. Cyril and Methodius are honoured as apostles of the Slavic peoples. Together they are remembered for their contribution to Slavic culture, for their missionary inculturation of the faith, and for establishing links between East and West. Since 1980 they have been recognised alongside Saint Benedict (11 July) as patrons of Europe.

Common of Pastors: founders of churches, page 456, or missionaries, page 458.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
through the holy brothers Cyril and Methodius
you brought the light of the gospel to the Slavic peoples.
Open our hearts to receive the words of your teaching
and make us one people,
united in holding and professing the true faith.

We ask this 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.

17 FEBRUARY **SEVEN FOUNDERS OF THE ORDER OF SERVITES, RELI-
GIOUS**

In 1233 these prominent businessmen from Florence (Italy) withdrew to a life of solitude, prayer, and penance. They developed into an order of mendicant friars (Servants of Mary) and are remembered for their radical response to the demands of the gospel.

Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord,
in your goodness
pour into our hearts the filial love
which inspired the seven holy Founders
to pay special honour to the Mother of God
and to lead your people closer to you.

We ask this 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.

21 FEBRUARY **PETER DAMIAN, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

Born in Ravenna (Italy) in 1007, Peter died on 22 February 1072. After a career as a professor, he became a hermit monk. Ardent, energetic, and strict, he was an outspoken reformer of Church life and discipline. He was appointed cardinal-bishop of Ostia and became a diplomat and ecclesiastical statesman. He is remembered as a scholarly reformer possessing a deeply ascetical spirituality.

Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

**OPENING
PRAYER**

Almighty God,
grant that we may follow
the teaching and example of your bishop Peter Damian,
so that, placing Christ above all else
and devoting ourselves always to the service of your Church,
we may come to the joyful vision of eternal light.

We ask this 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.

22 FEBRUARY **THE CHAIR OF PETER, APOSTLE**

FEAST

The chair (cathedra) of a bishop is a preeminent sign of his teaching authority and pastoral oversight of a local Church. This feast, which was first observed in fourth century Rome, celebrates Peter, first among the apostles, as founder of the See of Rome and the focus of unity in the communion of one faith.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty God,
grant that no storm may shake your people,
for you have founded us on the solid rock
of Peter's confession of faith.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Graciously accept, O God,
the prayers and gifts of your Church,
so that with Peter as our teacher and shepherd
we may preserve the faith in its fullness
and reach our eternal inheritance.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I, page 632.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
on this feast of the blessed apostle Peter
you have given us new life
by our sharing in the body and blood of Christ;
let this saving exchange of gifts be for us
the sacrament of unity and peace.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

23 FEBRUARY **POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR**
MEMORIAL

Born about the year 69, Polycarp died on this day about 155 at Smyrna (Turkey), where he had been the beloved and respected bishop. He was a disciple of Saint John the apostle (27 December) and wrote to the Philippians to strengthen their faith and to defend the Church against heresy. Because of the account of his martyrdom he is remembered for his fearless acknowledgement of Christ. Polycarp is honoured as one of the apostolic fathers of the Church.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

God of all creation,
it was your gracious will
that the holy bishop Polycarp be numbered
among the company of the martyrs;
grant through his intercession
that we may share with him the cup of Christ's sufferings,
and so rise again to everlasting life.

We ask this 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.

MARCH

4 MARCH CASIMIR

Casimir was born at Cracow (Poland) in 1458 and died in Lithuania on this day in 1484. Though a young prince of Poland, he preferred peace to being a soldier. He chose celibacy over marriage and favoured prayer and penance rather than royal privilege. He is remembered for his generous life of austerity and devotion.

Common of Other Saints: other holy men and women, page 470.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
to serve you is to reign;
grant through the prayers of Saint Casimir
that we may serve you faithfully
with just and holy lives.

We ask this 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.

7 MARCH PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS

MEMORIAL

Perpetua, a young woman with a newborn son, and Felicity, a pregnant slavegirl, died at Carthage (Tunisia) on this day about 203. They were arrested with their catechist and several other African catechumens. Perpetua resisted her father's appeals to renounce her faith. While in prison they were baptised and Felicity gave birth to a daughter. Thrown to wild beasts and then put to the sword, they died in the embrace of the sign of peace. They are remembered for the joyful courage of their final witness to Christ and are mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon).

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438; or Common of Other Saints: other holy men and women (for holy women), page 470.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,
urged on by your love
the holy martyrs Perpetua and Felicity
withstood the taunts of their persecutors
and triumphed over torture and death.
Grant through their prayers
that we may grow daily in your love.

We ask this 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.

8 MARCH JOHN OF GOD, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Born in Portugal in 1495, John died in Granada (Spain) on this day in 1550. When he was about forty years old, he directed the energies of his spiritual conversion toward hospitality for the destitute and care of the sick. He is remembered for this ministry, which was continued by his followers, who became the Order of Brothers Hospitallers of Saint John of God.

Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468, or those who carried out works of mercy, page 466.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
you filled the heart of Saint John of God
with the spirit of compassion;
grant that we may give ourselves to works of charity
and be numbered among those chosen
to share the glory of your kingdom.

We ask this 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.

9 MARCH FRANCES OF ROME, MARRIED WOMAN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Frances was born in Rome in 1384 and lived there until her death on this day in 1440. She is remembered as a dedicated laywoman who, in a time of plague and civil war, worked tirelessly for the poor and the sick yet without compromising her love for her husband and family. She established a community of laywomen who followed the Rule of Saint Benedict and ministered to the poor.

Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,
in Saint Frances of Rome you have given us
a shining example of holiness,
both in marriage and in monastic life;
grant us perseverance in your service,
that we may recognise and follow you
in all the circumstances of our lives.

We ask this 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.

17 MARCH PATRICK, BISHOP, MISSIONARY

Born in Roman Britain around the end of the fourth century, Patrick died in Ireland about the middle of the fifth century. As a missionary bishop in Ireland, he faced hardship and opposition even from his friends and fellow Christians. Yet he worked to conciliate, to evangelise, and to educate local chieftains and their families. Patrick is remembered for his simplicity and pastoral care, for his humble trust in God, and for his fearless preaching of the gospel to those who had enslaved him in his youth.

Common of Pastors: missionaries, page 458, or popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
in your loving providence
you sent the holy bishop Patrick
to preach your glory to the people of Ireland;
grant through his merits and prayers
that all who rejoice in the name of Christian
may proclaim your wonderful deeds to all the world.

We ask this 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.

18 MARCH CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Cyril was bishop for over thirty-five years in Jerusalem, where he was born about 315 and where he died in 386. He was deeply involved in debates with the Arians over the divinity of Christ and was exiled three times. He is remembered especially for the illuminating baptismal catechesis he gave in the new Constantinian basilica of the Holy Sepulchre.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING PRAYER

In your marvellous wisdom, O God,
you raised up the bishop Cyril
to lead your Church more deeply
into the mysteries of salvation;
grant through his intercession
that, acknowledging Christ your Son,
we may have life, and have it to the full.

We ask this 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.

19 MARCH JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE VIRGIN MARY

SOLEMNITY

A carpenter, though born of the royal house of David, Joseph was an upright man who, as husband of the Virgin Mary, cared for Mary and the child Jesus. He was venerated in the East after the fourth century, and his cult flowered in the West during the fifteenth century, following the development of medieval nativity plays, the Christmas crib, and increased devotion to Mary.

OPENING
PRAYER

Grant, almighty God,
that through the prayers of blessed Joseph
your Church may help bring to fulfilment
the mysteries of salvation,
whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
ever faithful to your covenant,
you strengthened Saint Joseph
to embrace the mystery of your will
and to welcome your Word, made flesh of the Virgin Mary.

Keep your Church also steadfast in faith,
ready to trust in your promises
and eager to fulfil your saving purpose.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

We ask you, Lord God,
that, as blessed Joseph faithfully cared for your only Son,
born of the Virgin Mary,
so we may serve at your altar
with pure and devoted hearts.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Joseph, Husband of the Virgin Mary, page 590.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
on this joyous feast of blessed Joseph
watch over your household, the Church,
which you have nourished at the altar of life,
and safeguard the gifts
you have graciously bestowed upon us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

23 MARCH TORIBIO DE MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

Born in Majorca (Spain) in 1538, Toribio died on this day in 1606 at Santa (Peru). A professor of law and a judge of the Inquisition in Spain, he was still a layman when appointed archbishop of Lima, Peru. There he became an outstanding missionary reformer. He is remembered for his determined opposition to ecclesiastical abuses and to colonial exploitation, for his pastoral care and evangelisation of the indigenous peoples in their own languages, and for his visitation of the vast diocese. Toribio built churches, hospitals, and the first seminary in the Americas.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
you have given life and growth to your Church
through the zeal for truth and the apostolic labours
of your bishop Toribio;
grant that your holy people may continually grow
in sanctity and in faith.

We ask this 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.

25 MARCH THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

SOLEMNITY

This feast originated in the East during the sixth century and gained universal observance in the West during the eighth century. It is a feast of the Lord, commemorating the announcement to the Virgin Mary of the Word made flesh, Mary's acceptance of God's will, and the conception of Christ nine months before Christmas. Its occurrence close to Easter links the incarnation with the whole mystery of human redemption in Christ.

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God,
you chose that your Word
should take flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary.
Grant that we who confess him to be our Redeemer,
truly God and truly human,
may also share in his divine nature.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE

OPENING

PRAYER

God most high,
you extended your gracious mercy
to the whole human race
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
who took flesh of the Virgin Mary.

You gave him to the world as your servant,
whose delight was to do your will.
Keep the Church, which is his body,
faithful to your purpose,
that all the ends of the earth
may know your saving power.

Grant this 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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH: When the Nicene Creed is used, all genuflect during the words **was incarnate . . . made man**.

PRAYER

OVER THE

GIFTS

All-powerful God,
we believe that the Church had its first beginning
in the incarnation of your only Son.
Accept our offering this day,
that your people may celebrate with joy
the mystery of the Word made flesh.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Annunciation of the Lord, page 592.

PRAYER

AFTER

COMMUNION

Lord God,
we profess as truly God and truly human
the child conceived by the Virgin Mary.
Seal in our hearts the mysteries of true faith,
and through the saving power of the resurrection
guide us to eternal happiness.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

APRIL

2 APRIL FRANCIS OF PAOLA, HERMIT, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Francis was born at Paola (Italy) in 1416 and died at Tours (France) on this day in 1507. While still a youth he became a hermit. Others were quickly attracted to his way of life and came to be renowned for their charity and austerity as well as for their commitment to Franciscan ideals. Francis lived to see them recognised as the Order of Minims. He is remembered as a spiritual counsellor of kings and for his political peacemaking.

Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468, or other holy men and women, page 470.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,
by whom the lowly are exalted,
you raised up Francis of Paola
to the glory of your saints;
through his merits and example
grant that we may rejoice at last
in the reward you have promised to the humble.

We ask this 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.

4 APRIL ISIDORE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Isidore was born about 560 in Seville (Spain) and died there in 636. Archbishop of Seville for thirty-six years, he laboured successfully to bring the Visigoths from Arianism to orthodox belief, presided over several councils significant for Church life in Spain, and codified the distinctive liturgy of the Spanish Church, which is preserved to this day. Isidore is remembered for his prolific writings and as an influential educator, and is noted too for the pastoral care of his diocese.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
hear the prayers we bring before you
on this feast of Saint Isidore,
that, as he enlightened the Church
with his sacred teaching,
he may now assist us with his intercession.

We ask this 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.

5 APRIL **VINCENT FERRER, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY**

Vincent was born in Valencia (Spain) in 1350 and died at Vannes (France) on this day in 1419. A Dominican friar, Vincent quickly distinguished himself in converting many to Christ and is remembered chiefly for preaching repentance on his missions throughout France, Spain, and Italy. He was also influential in ending the schism between the Avignon and Roman papal claimants.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454, or missionaries, page 458.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you inspired the priest Vincent Ferrer
to serve you by preaching the gospel;
grant that one day we may behold the king of heaven
whose coming as judge Saint Vincent proclaimed on earth.

We ask this 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.

7 APRIL **JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE, PRESBYTER,**
MEMORIAL **RELIGIOUS FOUNDER, EDUCATOR**

John was born at Rheims (France) in 1651 and died at Rouen on this day in 1719. He was ordained to the presbyterate in 1678 after seminary studies at Saint Sulpice in Paris. He pioneered schools for poor boys and the working classes, the training of teachers, and the care of disturbed children. Despite much internal conflict and external opposition, John formed his companions into the Brothers of the Christian Schools. He is remembered for devoting his entire life and resources to education.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468, or educators, page 467.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you chose Saint John Baptist de la Salle
to instruct young people in the Christian faith.
Raise up in your Church
teachers who will devote themselves wholeheartedly
to the human and Christian education of the young.

We ask this 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.

11 APRIL **STANISLAUS, BISHOP, MARTYR**
MEMORIAL

Born at Szczepanow (Poland) about 1030, Stanislaus died on this day in 1079 at Cracow. He became bishop of Cracow in 1072. His outspoken condemnation of corruption resulted in his murder on the orders of the king. Stanislaus is remembered for his reforms, his preaching, and his pastoral concern.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445 or 447; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
for the glory of your name
the holy bishop Stanislaus fell beneath the sword of persecutors;
grant that we too may remain steadfast in faith
even unto death.

We ask this 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.

13 APRIL **MARTIN I, POPE, MARTYR**

Martin was born at Todi (Italy) and died in exile at Chersonesus (Crimea) on this day about 655. A deacon in Rome, Martin was sent as legate to Constantinople. After being elected pope in 649, he held a council at the Lateran which condemned the error that Christ did not have a human will. This and the council's censure of two related imperial edicts led to his imprisonment and exile. Martin is remembered for the many hardships he suffered and is the last pope to be venerated as a martyr.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445 or 447; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty God,
you did not allow Saint Martin, pope and martyr,
to be deterred by threats or broken by suffering;
grant that we too may face the trials of this world
with courage and unconquered spirit.

We make our prayer 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.

21 APRIL ANSELM, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Born in 1033 at Aosta (Italy), Anselm died at Canterbury (England) on this day in 1109. He was a monk at Bec (Normandy), where he taught theology and devoted himself to the spiritual life. Later, as archbishop of Canterbury, his bitter disputes with the king resulted in his being exiled twice. He is remembered for his theological learning and writings and for organising Church life in England.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
you enabled your bishop Anselm
to search out and to teach
the depths of your wisdom;
let your gift of faith assist our understanding,
that we may savour in our hearts
the truths you have entrusted to our belief.

Grant this 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.

23 APRIL GEORGE, MARTYR

George was martyred at Lydda (Israel) around 303 in the persecution of the emperor Diocletian. His cult, which predates the legend of his slaying the dragon, spread quickly through East and West. During the crusades, George was seen to personify the ideals of Christian chivalry, and he was adopted as patron of several city-states and countries.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445 or 447.

OPENING PRAYER

We proclaim your mighty deeds, O Lord,
and we pray
that, as Saint George followed the path
of Christ's suffering and death,
he may always come quickly to assist us in our weakness.

Grant this 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.

23 APRIL ADALBERT, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS, MARTYR

Born in Bohemia (Czech Republic) about 956, Adalbert died near Gdansk (Poland) on this day in 997. Named Wojciech at baptism, he took the name Adalbert at the time of his confirmation while studying in Magdeburg (Germany). Around the age of twenty-six he became the first Czech bishop of Prague, but his efforts to further the Christian faith in Bohemia and Hungary met with vehement opposition and he withdrew to Rome in 990, becoming a monk. Returning to Prague for only a couple of years, he founded the abbey of Brevnov, which became a spiritual and missionary centre for the western Slavs. Adalbert was then released from his episcopal responsibilities and devoted himself to missionary work among the Prussians on the Polish coast, where he was martyred. He is remembered for his prayerfulness, his concern for the poor, and his courage in the face of opposition.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445 or 447.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you inflamed the holy bishop Adalbert with a zeal for souls
and crowned his life with martyrdom.
Grant through his intercession
that our shepherds may always receive the loyalty of their flock
and God's people enjoy the devoted care of their pastors.

We ask this 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.

24 APRIL FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS, MARTYR

Born at Sigmaringen (Germany) in 1578, Fidelis died at Seewis (Switzerland) on this day in 1622. Fidelis became a Capuchin after briefly practising as a lawyer noted for upholding the causes of the poor and oppressed. He is remembered for his care of the sick and for his preaching, especially among Protestants in Switzerland, where he was martyred.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 447; or Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or
Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you enkindled the fire of your love
in the heart of Saint Fidelis
and you crowned his preaching of the faith
with the palm of martyrdom;
grant through his prayers
that, being rooted and grounded in love,
we too may know the power of Christ's resurrection.

We ask this 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.

25 APRIL **MARK, EVANGELIST**
FEAST

Mark died about the year 74. He is usually identified with the John Mark whose mother's house in Jerusalem was a meeting place for the apostles, and with the young man who followed Christ after his arrest (Mark 14:51). A cousin of Saint Barnabas (11 June), Mark accompanied Saint Paul (29 June) on his first missionary journey and later followed him to Rome. A companion of Saint Peter (29 June), he is traditionally credited with the gospel which reflects Peter's teaching and memoirs. Mark is honoured as the founder of the Church in Alexandria.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you bestowed on Saint Mark the evangelist
the sublime grace of preaching the gospel;
let his teaching so transform our lives
that we may walk faithfully in the footsteps of Christ.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

As we celebrate the glory of Saint Mark, O Lord,
we offer you this sacrifice of praise,
humbly asking that the preaching of the gospel
may flourish always in your Church.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles II, page 634.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Almighty God,
through the gift we have received at your holy altar
make us holy
and establish us firmly in the faith of the gospel,
which Saint Mark proclaimed.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

28 APRIL **PETER CHANEL, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY, MARTYR**

Born at Cuet (France) in 1803, Peter died on Futuna (Southwest Pacific Ocean) on this day in 1841. Initially a diocesan presbyter, he was noted for his pastoral zeal, particularly his care of the sick. Later he joined the Society of Mary (Marists) and is remembered for his missionary work in the Pacific. Evangelisation in the local language brought some success on the island of Futuna. This led to his murder by a jealous chieftain. He is honoured as the first martyr of the Church in Oceania.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 447; or Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454, or missionaries, page 458; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you gave Saint Peter Chanel a martyr's crown,
that your Church might grow and flourish.
In these days of Easter joy
grant that we who celebrate Christ's death and resurrection
may give witness to the new and risen life.

We ask this 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.

28 APRIL **LOUIS MARIE DE MONTFORT, PRESBYTER**

Louis Grignion was born at Montfort-la-Canne (France) in 1673 and died at St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre on this day in 1716. In his priestly ministry, he devoted himself to the poor and the sick and to preaching popular missions across western France. To further these works, he founded the Daughters of Wisdom and the Missionaries of the Company of Mary (Montfort Fathers and Brothers). He is remembered for his extensive spiritual writings concerning the Virgin Mary's role in the mystery of salvation.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454, or missionaries, page 458.

OPENING
PRAYER

God of eternal wisdom,
you made your priest Louis Marie
an outstanding witness and teacher
of total dedication to Christ your Son
through the hands of the blessed Mother.
Grant that we may follow that same spiritual path
and extend your kingdom on earth.

We ask this 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.

29 APRIL MEMORIAL CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Catherine was born at Siena (Italy) in 1347 and died at Rome on this day in 1380. Committed to the practice of prayer and penance from an early age, she entered the Dominican Third Order while still an adolescent. She became an influential spiritual leader and made strenuous efforts to reconcile Church and state and to reform the Roman papacy. Catherine is remembered for her holiness and determination and, though she never learned to write, for the quality of her teachings. She is remembered also as a mystic and a reformer of religious life.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you set the heart of Saint Catherine on fire with divine love
as she contemplated the passion of your Son
and ministered to the needs of your Church.
Grant through her intercession
that, caught up in the mystery of Christ,
we may always rejoice in the revelation of his glory.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept, O Lord,
the redeeming sacrifice we offer
on this feast of Saint Catherine,
so that, instructed by her teaching,
we may render more fervent thanks
to you, the one true God.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
the bread of heaven on which we have fed
wonderfully sustained the earthly life of Saint Catherine;
grant that this sacrament may be for us
the food of eternal life.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

30 APRIL **PIUS V, POPE, RELIGIOUS**

Michael Ghislieri was born near Alessandria (Italy) in 1504 and died at Rome on this day in 1572. He taught philosophy and theology as a Dominican presbyter and became a diocesan bishop. Elected pope in 1565, he was noted for his reforming zeal and for defending Christendom against the Ottoman empire. His excommunication of Queen Elizabeth I of England hardened the split between Catholics and Protestants. Chiefly he is remembered for implementing the reforms of the Council of Trent, including the Breviary, Missal, and Catechism.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a pope), page 450

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
in your providence you raised up Pope Pius V
to defend the faith of your Church
and to renew its sacred worship;
grant through his intercession
that we may share in your holy mysteries with a living faith
and a love that shows itself in deeds.

We ask this 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.

MAY

1 MAY JOSEPH THE WORKER

This commemoration, instituted by Pius XII in 1955, proposes the example and intercession of Joseph as worker and provider. On this date many countries celebrate the dignity and cause of human labour.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, Creator of all things,
you decreed that the human race should labour and toil;
grant that with Saint Joseph as our model and patron
we may do the work you command
and receive the reward that you promise.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God, the fountain of all mercy,
look with favour on the gifts
we present to your majesty
on the feast of Saint Joseph,
and grant that our offering
may become the help and protection
of those who call upon your name.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Joseph, Husband of the Virgin Mary, page 590.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
we have feasted with delight at your heavenly table;
grant that like Saint Joseph
we may bear in our hearts
the signs of your love
and come to enjoy the gift of lasting peace.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

2 MAY MEMORIAL **ATHANASIUS, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

Athanasius was born in 295 and was buried on this day in 373 at Alexandria (Egypt). He attended the first ecumenical council of Nicaea as a deacon. Later, as bishop of Alexandria, he upheld that council's doctrine in the face of great opposition from Arians, including several emperors. Athanasius was sent into exile a number of times. He is venerated as the "Father of Orthodoxy" for championing the true and equal divinity of the incarnate Son of God.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
you raised up your bishop Athanasius
as the great champion of your Son's divinity;
grant us the joy of his teaching and protection,
that we may grow each day in knowledge and love of you.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Look with favour, O God,
on the gifts we present to you
on this feast of Saint Athanasius,
and grant that those who profess the faith
as he did, in all its purity,
may advance in the way of salvation
by their witness to your truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

All-powerful God,
grant that the true divinity of your only Son,
which we firmly confess with Saint Athanasius,
may through this sacrament
always protect us and bring us new life.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 MAY PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES
FEAST

Philip, from Bethsaida in Galilee, became a disciple of Jesus and one of the twelve. He is recorded in the Fourth Gospel as recognising in Jesus the one foretold by Moses and the prophets (John 1:45) and as introducing Gentiles to the Lord (John 12:20-22). According to Acts 8:5, he was the first to preach the gospel to non-Jews.

James, son of Alphaeus, was also one of the twelve called by Jesus (Mark 3:18ff.). Known as James the Less, he has been venerated traditionally as the author of the letter of James and as leader of the Church in Jerusalem, where he died in the year 62.

The joint feast of Philip and James has been celebrated in Rome since at least the sixth century.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you gladden our hearts each year
with the feast of the apostles Philip and James.
By the help of their prayers
enable us to share in the passion and resurrection of Christ,
that we may come at last
to the unending vision of your glory.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we present
on this feast of the apostles Philip and James,
and grant that our worship
may be pure and undefiled in your sight.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I or II, pages 632-634.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
through the holy gifts we have received
purify our minds and hearts,
so that like the apostles Philip and James
we may see you in Jesus, your Son,
and so possess eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 MAY NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS, MARTYRS

Nereus and Achilleus were martyred in Rome, probably in 304 under the emperor Diocletian, and are known as the martyrs of the Ardeatine Way. They are remembered as soldiers who became Christians and then out of conscience refused further military service.

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438 or 442.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
as we honour the glorious martyrs Nereus and Achilleus
for their courageous witness to Christ,
we pray that we may know the power of their intercession
at the throne of your mercy.

Grant this 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.

12 MAY PANCRAS, MARTYR

Pancras, by tradition a teenager, was martyred in Rome, probably in 304 under the emperor Diocletian. He was buried on this day in the cemetery of Octavilla and is widely venerated in Rome and elsewhere.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, 445 or 447.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
let your Church find confidence and joy
in the intercession of the blessed martyr Pancras.
Aided by his prayers in glory,
keep us steadfast in your service
and secure in your peace.

We ask this 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.

14 MAY **MATTHIAS, APOSTLE**
FEAST

A companion of Jesus and a witness to the resurrection, Matthias was chosen by lot to take the place of Judas and so to share the apostolic ministry of the twelve (Acts 1:15-26). He is named in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon).

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you added Saint Matthias to the college of apostles;
grant through his intercession
that we who have also been chosen by your love
may be numbered among the elect in glory.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept from your Church, O Lord,
the gifts we present with reverence
on the feast of Saint Matthias,
and through this celebration
strengthen us by the power of your grace.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I or II, pages 632-634.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Do not cease, Lord God, to nourish your family
with these gifts from heaven,
so that through the intercession of Saint Matthias
you may make us worthy
to share the lot of the saints in light.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

18 MAY JOHN I, POPE, MARTYR

John was born in Tuscany (Italy) in the late fifth century and died in captivity at Ravenna on this day in 526. He is remembered as a conciliator and peacemaker, the first bishop of Rome to visit Constantinople. He was imprisoned by Theodoric, ruler of Italy and an Arian, for excessive sympathy toward the Church of the East.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445 or 447; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a pope), page 450.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
the reward of all who serve you faithfully,
you have sanctified this day
by the martyrdom of Pope Saint John;
hear the prayers of your people,
and grant that we who revere his holy life
may also imitate his unwavering faith.

We ask this 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.

20 MAY BERNARDINE OF SIENA, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY

Born in Tuscany (Italy) in 1380, Bernardine died at Aquila on this day in 1444. A Franciscan presbyter, theologian, and reformer, he was a popular preacher throughout Italy. He is remembered as a preacher, as a promoter of devotion to the name of Jesus, and for his efforts toward reunion of the Eastern and Western Churches at the Council of Florence.

Common of Pastors: missionaries, page 458; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you inspired Saint Bernardine, your priest,
with a singular love for the holy name of Jesus;
grant through his merits and prayers
that our hearts may always burn
with the spirit of your love.

We ask this 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.

25 MAY **BEDE THE VENERABLE**, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS,
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Born at Wearmouth (England) in 673, Bede died at Jarrow on this day in 735. He was a monk, historian of the early English Church, and master of the Scriptures and of the teachings of the Church Fathers. Known for his scholarly writings, he is venerated as the “light of the Church” in the period called the Dark Ages and as a forerunner of the eighth and ninth century renaissance of the Western Church.

Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you shed glory on your Church
through the learning of the Venerable Bede;
grant that your people may be enlightened by his wisdom
and assisted always by his merits and prayers.

We ask this 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.

25 MAY **GREGORY VII**, POPE, RELIGIOUS

Hildebrand was born about 1020 in Tuscany (Italy) and died in exile at Salerno on this day in 1085. He served in important positions under several popes. Briefly a monk of Cluny, he was elected pope in 1073 and campaigned strenuously for the reform of the Roman Church and for its freedom from civil powers. He is remembered for his devotion to the Church in Rome and for the reform of clerical and monastic life and of Church organisation.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a pope), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord,
grant to your Church
the spirit of fortitude and the passion for justice
with which you adorned Pope Saint Gregory,
so that the Church may repudiate evil
and pursue whatever is right
in freedom and in love.

We ask this 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.

25 MAY MARY MAGDALENE DE' PAZZI, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS

Born in Florence (Italy) in 1566, Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi died there on this day in 1607. A Carmelite mystic and visionary, she is remembered for her hidden life of prayer and for her spiritual and physical suffering, borne for the Church and its renewal.

Common of Other Saints: virgins, page 463, or religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God, lover of virginity,
you filled the heart of Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi
with the fire of your love
and adorned her with gifts from heaven;
grant that we who honour her today
may follow her example of purity and love.

We ask this 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.

26 MAY PHILIP NERI, PRESBYTER
MEMORIAL

Philip was born in Florence (Italy) in 1515, and died at Rome on this day in 1595. An outstanding proponent of Church reform after the Council of Trent, he worked among the young and the poor in Rome and founded the Congregation of the Oratory. He is remembered as a spiritual director, for his pastoral initiatives, and for his humour, simplicity, and charity.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you never fail to raise up to the glory of holiness
those who serve you with steadfast faith;
grant in your goodness
that the Holy Spirit may inflame our hearts with that fire
which so wonderfully pierced the heart of Saint Philip Neri.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
as we offer the sacrifice of praise,
we ask that like Saint Philip
we may always devote ourselves with cheerfulness
to the glory of your name
and the service of our neighbour.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Having feasted with delight at your heavenly table,
we beg you, Lord,
that like Saint Philip we may always hunger
for that food by which we truly live.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

27 MAY AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS,
MISSIONARY

Born in Italy in the sixth century, Augustine died at Canterbury (England) around 605. As prior of a Roman monastery, he was sent by Saint Gregory the Great (3 September) to preach the gospel to the English. He arrived in England the following year after being ordained a bishop while in Gaul. Augustine evangelised the kingdom of Kent and is venerated by Catholics and Anglicans alike as founder of the metropolitan see of Canterbury.

Common of Pastors: missionaries, page 458, or popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
through the preaching of the holy bishop Augustine
you led the English people
to hear the message of the gospel;
grant that the good seed which he sowed
may produce in your Church
an abundant and never-failing harvest.

We ask this 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.

31 MAY THE VISIT OF THE VIRGIN MARY TO ELIZABETH
FEAST

This feast celebrates Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth, as told in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1:39-56), and her example of faith in God's word and sensitivity to the Spirit. It was introduced into the Franciscan calendar by Saint Bonaventure (15 July) in the thirteenth century and was extended in 1389 to the entire Latin Church to heal the divisions in the Western Church of the time.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
you inspired the blessed Virgin Mary,
while carrying your Son in her womb,
to visit her cousin Elizabeth.
Grant that we may always follow
the prompting of the Holy Spirit
and join Mary in proclaiming the greatness of your name.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

God of majesty,
as you were pleased by the love
which the blessed Mother of your Son
showed to her cousin Elizabeth,
so may the sacrifice we offer
be pleasing to you and bring us salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary II, page 626.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Let the Church proclaim your greatness, O God,
for you have done great things for the lowly.
As John leapt for joy
when he sensed the hidden presence of your Son,
so let your Church rejoice
to recognise Christ's living presence in this sacrament.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SATURDAY **THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

FOLLOWING THE

SECOND SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

MEMORIAL

This commemoration celebrates Mary as the model of ready acceptance of God's will in all life's circumstances. It was instituted by Pius XII for the octave day of the Assumption and was moved by Paul VI in 1969 to the Saturday after the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

OPENING

PRAYER

Lord our God,
you prepared a worthy dwelling-place for the Holy Spirit
in the heart of the blessed Virgin Mary;
grant through her intercession
that we too may become
the living temple of your glory.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER

OVER THE

GIFTS

Look with favour, Lord,
on the prayers and gifts of your faithful
as we keep this feast in honour of Mary,
the blessed Mother of God;
grant that our offering may be pleasing to you
and become for us the source
of your help and forgiveness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary I or II, pages 624-626.

PRAYER

AFTER

COMMUNION

O God,
you have given us a share in eternal redemption.
On this feast of the Mother of your Son
let us rejoice in the fullness of your grace
and in the constant growth within us
of your saving power.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

JUNE

1 JUNE JUSTIN, MARTYR MEMORIAL

Born about 100 at Nablus (Palestine), Justin died about 165 in Rome. After lengthy study of Greek philosophies, he acknowledged Christ as the source of all truth. As a lay intellectual, Christian philosopher, and apologist, he is remembered for his reasoned defence of Christian belief and practice and for the ultimate witness given by his martyrdom.

OPENING PRAYER

God of wisdom,
through the folly of the cross
you taught the blessed martyr Justin
the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ;
grant by his intercession
that we may reject falsehood and deceit
and remain always steadfast in the faith.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Grant, O God,
that we may celebrate with reverence
the mystery of the eucharist,
which Saint Justin so courageously upheld.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
hear the earnest prayer
of those you have nourished with food from heaven,
that, following the teaching of Saint Justin,
we may remain ever thankful
for the gifts we have received.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 JUNE MARCELLINUS AND PETER, MARTYRS

Marcellinus and Peter, reputedly members of the Roman clergy, were beheaded at Rome under the emperor Diocletian in 304. The basilica over their tombs and their mention in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon) testify to the honour in which they were held in the Church of Rome.

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438 or 442.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
by the glorious confession of the holy martyrs
Marcellinus and Peter
you shield and protect your Church;
grant that we may profit from their example
and receive the support of their prayers.

We ask this 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.

3 JUNE
MEMORIAL

**CHARLES LWANGA, CATECHIST, MARTYR,
AND HIS COMPANIONS, MARTYRS**

These twenty-two martyrs were among many newly baptised Catholics and Anglicans who were killed for their faith and virtue in Uganda between 1885 and 1887 by a debauched and brutal ruler. They included judges, catechists, soldiers, and teenage pages under the leadership of Charles Lwanga, who was burned alive on this day in 1886. They are remembered for the heroic calm of their fidelity to Christ.

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438 or 442.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you have made the blood of martyrs
the seed of Christians;
grant that your Church,
the field made fertile by the blood
of Saint Charles and his companions,
may produce for you a rich and never-failing harvest.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
we present this offering to you with our humble prayer,
that, as you gave your blessed martyrs strength
to accept death rather than commit sin,
you will also enable us to stand at your altar
with hearts dedicated to you alone.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
we have received this holy sacrament
while remembering the victory of your blessed martyrs.
Grant that the eucharist,
which strengthened them in their torments,
may be a source of unwavering faith and love
in all our trials.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

5 JUNE **BONIFACE, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY, MARTYR**
MEMORIAL

Born in Devon (England) about 675, Boniface was killed in the Netherlands on this day in 754. As a monk and teacher, Boniface went to evangelise the Germanic peoples. Ordained bishop, he was given wide-ranging papal commissions throughout Germany and Gaul. He founded monasteries and established dioceses, presided at synods, and maintained close associations with various emperors. Boniface is remembered as a determined missionary and as a Church organiser and reformer whose work shaped the future of Europe. He is buried at his abbey of Fulda and is honoured as Apostle of Germany.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445 or 447; or Common of Pastors: missionaries, page 458, or popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord,
through the intercession of your holy martyr Boniface,
grant that we may preserve in our hearts
and profess in our lives
the faith which he taught with his words
and sealed with his blood.

We ask this 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.

6 JUNE **NORBERT, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**

Born in the Rhineland (Germany) about 1080, Norbert died at Magdeburg on this day in 1134. A cleric in minor orders, he converted from a comfortable life in 1115, was ordained a presbyter, and took up a life of poverty. He founded a community of canons at Prémontré (France), austere in discipline and active in pastoral ministry. Later, as archbishop of Magdeburg, he resisted the alienation of Church property. He is remembered for his zealous reform of clerical life and for the example of his attachment to the values of the gospel.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you made the holy bishop Norbert
an outstanding servant of your Church
by his spirit of prayer and pastoral concern;
grant through his intercession
that your flock may find shepherds after your own heart
to lead them to life-giving pastures.

We make our prayer 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.

9 JUNE **EPHREM OF SYRIA, DEACON, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

Born in Nisibis (Iraq) about 306, Ephrem died at Edessa (Turkey) on this day in 373. He was a noted teacher, exegete, and theologian. A prolific poet, writer, and composer of liturgical songs, he was called the “Harp of the Holy Spirit.” Ephrem is remembered for his poetic and dogmatic works, for his holy and ascetical life, and for his devotion to the Virgin Mary.

Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

**OPENING
PRAYER**

In your goodness, Lord,
pour into our hearts the Holy Spirit,
who inspired the deacon Saint Ephrem
to celebrate your mysteries in song
and devote himself entirely to your service.

We ask this 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.

11 JUNE BARNABAS, APOSTLE
MEMORIAL

Barnabas was a Jew from Cyprus and one of the first converts in Jerusalem. He was a leading member of the Church there, though not one of the twelve. He introduced Saint Paul (29 June) to the twelve and worked with him in Antioch and on missionary work in the Mediterranean world. Barnabas championed the Gentiles at the Council of Jerusalem and is remembered as “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith” (Acts 11:21). It is not known when he died, but according to Eastern and Western tradition his remains were discovered on this day sometime in the fifth century.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
at your command Saint Barnabas,
a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit,
was set apart for the conversion of the nations.
Grant that the gospel of Christ,
which he boldly preached,
may be proclaimed faithfully in word and deed.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

O Lord,
bless and sanctify the gifts we have presented,
that by your grace
they may kindle in us that love for you
which impelled Saint Barnabas
to bring the light of the gospel to the Gentiles.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I or II, pages 632-634.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
we have received the pledge of eternal life
on this feast of the apostle Barnabas;
grant, we implore you,
that we may one day behold unveiled
the mystery we now celebrate in sacramental sign.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

13 JUNE **ANTHONY OF PADUA, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS,**
MEMORIAL **DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

Anthony was born in Lisbon (Portugal) in 1195 and died at Padua (Italy) on this day in 1231. At first an Augustinian presbyter and scholar, he joined the Franciscans to be a missionary in north Africa but was thwarted by illness. Instead, he became a teacher of theology and a brilliant popular preacher in southern France and Italy. He is remembered and loved as an inspired preacher, a servant of the poor, and a worker of miracles.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461; or
Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
in Saint Anthony of Padua
you gave your people an outstanding preacher
and a patron in time of need.
Grant that with his assistance
we may be faithful to the Christian way of life
and experience your support in all our troubles.

We ask this 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.

19 JUNE **ROMUALD, ABBOT, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**

Born at Ravenna (Italy) in the middle of the tenth century, Romuald died at Val di Castro on this day in 1027. He became a monk after witnessing a violent killing in his family. He promoted strict penance and solitude in the monastic life and established many monasteries and hermitages in Italy, most notably at Camaldoli in Tuscany. Romuald is remembered for combining the severe life of a hermit with the Benedictine community rule.

Common of Other Saints: religious (for an abbot), page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
through the blessed hermit Romuald
you renewed in your Church the life of prayer and solitude;
grant that by denying ourselves and following Christ
we may come with joy to the kingdom of heaven.

We ask this 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.

21 JUNE MEMORIAL ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, RELIGIOUS

Born in Lombardy (Italy) in 1568, Aloysius died in Rome on this day in 1591. Devout and ascetical from the time of his childhood in a family of Italian nobility, Aloysius pursued a religious vocation as a Jesuit against enormous family opposition. He died of the plague, contracted while caring for its victims. He is remembered for his youthful ideal of perfection and his determination to achieve it.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
source of all heavenly gifts,
in Saint Aloysius
you joined remarkable innocence of life
with the practice of self-denial.
Grant through his merits and prayers
that we who have not followed his innocence
may imitate his life of penance.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord God,
grant that like Saint Aloysius
we may always take our place at this holy banquet
clothed in the wedding garment of grace,
that our sharing in these mysteries
may enrich us with your blessings.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
you have fed us with the food of angels;
grant that we may serve you with blameless lives
and, like the saint whom we remember today,
remain always grateful for your blessings.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

22 JUNE PAULINUS OF NOLA, BISHOP

Paulinus was born at Bordeaux (France) about 353 and died at Nola (Italy) on this day in 431. He was the son of the Roman prefect of Gaul, and after a classical education he had a career in the imperial administration. He and his wife were baptised after the death of their son and gave away their great wealth to the poor and the Church. He was ordained a presbyter in Barcelona (Spain) at the demand of the people and was later elected bishop of Nola (Italy). Paulinus is remembered for his charity and hospitality, for his religious poetry, and for his extensive correspondence with eminent Christians.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
you made the holy bishop Paulinus of Nola
renowned for his love of poverty and his pastoral concern;
grant in your goodness
that we who celebrate his virtues
may also imitate his love for others.

We ask this 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.

22 JUNE JOHN FISHER, BISHOP, MARTYR, AND THOMAS MORE, MARRIED MAN, MARTYR

John Fisher was born at Beverley (England) in 1469 and died at London on this day in 1535. After a distinguished academic career at Cambridge, he was appointed chancellor of that university and bishop of Rochester in the same year. He combined a diligent pastoral ministry with continuing study and writing, especially in defence of Catholic doctrine.

Thomas More was born in London in 1478 and died there on 6 July 1535. He was an Oxford scholar, a noted humanist and apologist, and an incorruptible judge and parliamentarian who served as Speaker of the House of Commons and Lord Chancellor. He remarried after the death of his first wife and was a devoted husband and loving father of four children.

John Fisher and Thomas More were drawn into conflict with King Henry VIII over his divorce of Catherine of Aragon and ultimately over papal supremacy. Both were imprisoned and beheaded for treason. They are remembered for their wide learning, for their devotion to the Church, and for their uncompromising integrity and courage.

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,
in the death of martyrs
you bring true faith to its highest expression;
grant us strength
through the prayers of Saint John Fisher and Saint Thomas More,
that the faith which our lips proclaim
may be sealed by the witness of our lives.

We make our prayer 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.

24 JUNE THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
SOLEMNITY

This feast was observed on this date in the fourth century. It celebrates the holy birth of “the greatest of all the prophets,” the one who leapt for joy in his mother’s womb, who prepared the way for Christ, announced his presence, and baptised him in the Jordan River.

VIGIL MASS

This Mass formulary may be used on the evening of 23 June, either before or after Evening Prayer I of the solemnity. This Mass formulary may also be used as a Votive Mass, at which red vestments are worn.

OPENING
PRAYER

Grant, almighty God,
that your people may walk in the way of salvation
and, by heeding the summons of John the Baptist,
may follow faithfully Christ our Lord,
whose coming John foretold.

We make our prayer 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.

ALTERNATIVE

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you raise up prophets in every age.
Let your Spirit, who filled John the Baptist from his mother’s womb,
fill us with joy as we celebrate his birth.

May the example of his life,
the urgency of his preaching,
and the power of his prayers
make us ready to receive the one he announced,
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

On this feast of blessed John the Baptist,
look with favour, Lord,
upon the gifts your people bring,
and conform our actions
to the sacrament we celebrate in faith.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of John the Baptist, page 604.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
we have been fed at this sacred banquet,
and we ask that the prayer of John the Baptist
may obtain for us pardon from your Son,
the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MASS DURING THE DAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Just and gracious God,
who raised up blessed John the Baptist
to prepare a holy people for Christ the Lord,
give to your Church gladness of spirit
and guide the hearts of all the faithful
along the path of salvation and peace.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING
PRAYER

God most high,
from his mother's womb you destined John the Baptist
to preach repentance,
to challenge hardened hearts,
and so to herald salvation.

Grant that we may embrace the conversion he proclaimed
and follow the one whose coming he announced,
our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

We place these gifts upon your altar, Lord,
in celebration of the birth of John the Baptist,
who heralded the coming of our Saviour
and made him known when at last he came.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of John the Baptist, page 604.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
your Church has been renewed at the table of the Lamb.
As we rejoice at the birth of John the Baptist,
grant that we may acknowledge as author of our rebirth
the Christ whose coming John foretold.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

27 JUNE **CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

Born at Alexandria (Egypt) about 370, Cyril died there on this day in 444. Though an able theologian and bishop of his native city, he had a somewhat intransigent and confrontational personality and readily attacked non-Christians and heretics. Presiding at the Council of Ephesus in 431, he defended orthodox Christianity against Nestorius. The council approved the title *Theotokos* for Mary, thereby affirming Mary's motherhood of God. He is remembered for his ardent defence of orthodoxy, even at the cost of provoking rivalry, condemnations, and schism.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you made the holy bishop Cyril
the fearless defender of the doctrine
that the blessed Virgin Mary is truly the Mother of God;
grant that we who cherish this belief
may receive salvation through the incarnation
 of Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

28 JUNE IRENAEUS, BISHOP, MARTYR
MEMORIAL

Born probably at Smyrna (Turkey) about 130, Irenaeus died at Lyons (France) about 200. A pupil of Saint Polycarp (23 February), he became a presbyter and bishop of Lyons, the principal city of Gaul. He intervened in Rome for patience and reconciliation in Church disputes. Among the first theologians of the Western Church, he refuted gnosticism and further developed the theology of the incarnation. Irenaeus is remembered for his fidelity to apostolic tradition and is traditionally venerated as a martyr.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you chose the holy bishop Irenaeus
to uphold the truths of the faith
and to restore peace within the Church.
Grant through his intercession
that, renewed in faith and love,
we may always seek to foster unity and concord.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Grant, O Lord,
that the sacrifice we offer with joy
on this feast of Saint Irenaeus
may give glory to your name
and instil in us the love of truth,
that we may keep the Church's faith intact
and its unity unbroken.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

In your mercy, Lord God,
let the sacrament we have received
increase in us the gift of faith.
Steadfast in that faith even unto death,
the holy bishop Irenaeus entered into glory;
grant that we too may truly live by faith
and so abide in your justifying grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

29 JUNE PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES
SOLEMNITY

This preeminent feast day of the city of Rome has been observed on this date since the mid-third century. It commemorates the martyrdoms at Rome under Nero, between 64-67, of Peter the “chief of the apostles” and Paul the “apostle to the Gentiles.” It recalls their faith, their courage, and their leadership during the difficult days of the birth of the Church.

VIGIL MASS

This Mass formulary may be used on the evening of 28 June, either before or after Evening Prayer I of the solemnity. This Mass formulary may also be used as a Votive Mass, at which red vestments are worn. For a Votive Mass of Saint Peter, see page 1143; for a Votive Mass of Saint Paul, see page 1144.

OPENING
PRAYER

Sustain us, Lord our God,
through the prayers of the apostles Peter and Paul.
By their preaching you first gave your Church
the message of eternal life;
through their intercession
grant us now the means of salvation.
We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
source of every good gift
and sure foundation of our unity,
as we honour and revere Saints Peter and Paul,
grant your Church a share
in their zeal for preaching the gospel.
Strengthen our faith to be witnesses,
even unto death,
of the one Lord, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

We bring our gifts to your altar, Lord,
on the feast of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul,
knowing that of ourselves we can do nothing,
but delighting all the more in your saving power.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Peter and Paul, Apostles, page 606.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
by the power of these heavenly sacraments
confirm in truth your faithful people,
whom you have enlightened by the teaching of the apostles.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING: Solemn Blessing, 930.

MASS DURING THE DAY

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you give us this joyful day of celebration
to honour the apostles Peter and Paul.
Keep us in all things true to their teaching,
for in them your Church had its beginning.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING
PRAYER

Lord, living God,
you crowned the faith of Peter
and the tireless preaching of Paul
with a share in Christ's triumphant death.

Renew our faith through their intercession
and, by the example of their lives,
rekindle our zeal for proclaiming the gospel.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
may the prayer of the apostles commend this offering
that we dedicate to your name,
and may it deepen our reverence
as we celebrate the eucharistic sacrifice.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Peter and Paul, Apostles, page 606.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

By this sacrament, Lord God,
enable us to live as your Church:
keep us steadfast in the teaching of the apostles
and in the breaking of bread,
that we may be one in mind and heart
and firmly sealed in your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING: Solemn Blessing, page 930.

30 JUNE THE FIRST MARTYRS OF ROME

Blamed by the emperor Nero for the great fire which devastated Rome in 64, many Christians in addition to Saint Peter and Saint Paul (29 June) were savagely killed. Victims of cruel jealousy, they are remembered for their endurance and unshakeable faith.

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you hallowed the beginnings of the Church in Rome
with the blood of many martyrs;
grant that their strength in terrible ordeals
may give us courage,
and their holy victory fill us with joy.

We ask this 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.

JULY

3 JULY THOMAS, APOSTLE FEAST

Thomas, called the "Twin," was one of the twelve chosen by Jesus. He is remembered for his initial disbelief in the resurrection and his subsequent proclamation of faith upon seeing the resurrected Christ: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). An early tradition venerates him as the Apostle of India.

OPENING PRAYER

Give joy to your people, almighty God,
on the feast of Thomas, the apostle.
Through his protection strengthen our faith,
that we too may acknowledge Jesus Christ, your Son,
as our Lord and our God
and, believing, may have life in his name,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
on the feast of the blessed apostle Thomas
we offer you this sacrifice of praise as fitting worship.
Hear our earnest prayers
and protect the gifts of grace
you have already bestowed on your people.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I or II, pages 632-634.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

In this sacrament, O God,
we truly receive the body and blood of your Son;
grant that with the apostle Thomas
we may know Jesus by faith as our Lord and God
and bear witness to him in all we say and do.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 JULY ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL, MARRIED WOMAN, QUEEN

Elizabeth was born in 1271 and died at Estremoz (Portugal) on this day in 1336. She was a princess of Aragon and a grand-niece of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (17 November). Upon being widowed, she gave away her wealth and joined the Third Order of Saint Francis. She is remembered as a peacemaker and for assisting the poor and sick.

Common of Other Saints: those who carried out works of mercy, page 466.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
source of peace and lover of charity,
you gave Saint Elizabeth of Portugal
the wonderful gift of reconciling enemies.
Through her intercession
grant that we may become peacemakers
and so be called children of God.

We ask this 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.

5 JULY ANTHONY MARY ZACCARIA, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Anthony Zaccaria was born at Cremona (Italy) in 1502 and died there on this day in 1539. Initially a medical doctor, he was ordained to the presbyterate and went on to found an order of presbyters (Barnabites) and an order of women religious (Angelicals). He was noted for his devotion to Saint Paul (29 June), to the eucharist, and to the crucifixion. Anthony Zaccaria is remembered for his concern for renewal, his personal austerity, and the apostolic zeal that led to his premature death.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468, or educators, page 467.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
enable us to grasp in the spirit of the apostle Paul
that surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ
which inspired Saint Anthony Zaccaria
to preach the message of salvation in your Church.

We ask this 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.

6 JULY MARIA GORETTI, VIRGIN, MARTYR

Born at Corinaldo (Italy) in 1890, Maria died on this day in 1902. Her death at the age of eleven, a few weeks after her first communion, resulted from knife wounds sustained during an attempted rape. She is remembered for her innocence and simplicity, for her devotion to God, and for forgiving her attacker on her deathbed.

Common of Martyrs: virgin martyr, page 448; or Common of Other Saints: virgins, page 463.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
source of innocence and lover of chastity,
you gave Maria Goretti the grace of martyrdom at a tender age
and crowned her with glory for defending her virginity.
Through her intercession make us strong and steadfast
in keeping your commandments.

We ask this 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.

11 JULY **BENEDICT, ABBOT, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**
MEMORIAL

Born at Norcia (Italy) about 480, Benedict died at Monte Cassino about 547. After studies in Rome he became a hermit at Subiaco, where many sought his counsel. He then founded the monastery at Monte Cassino. Benedict is remembered for his widely influential monastic rule, combining work and prayer, and for his charity and moderation. Since 1964 he has been honoured as patron of Europe, a title shared since 1980 with Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius (14 February).

Common of Other Saints: religious (for an abbot), page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you made the blessed abbot Benedict
an outstanding master in the school of divine service.
Give us the grace to prefer nothing to your love
and so run with overflowing hearts
in the way of your commandments.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Look with favour, Lord,
on the gifts we bring to your altar
as we celebrate the memory of Saint Benedict,
and grant that by following his example in seeking you
we may find in your service
the gifts of unity and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

O God,
we who have received the pledge of eternal life
offer this earnest prayer:
that, following the counsels of Saint Benedict,
we may be faithful to the work of praise
and love one another with true charity.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

13 JULY HENRY, MARRIED MAN, RULER

Born about 973, Henry died on this day in 1024. Duke of Bavaria and then Holy Roman Emperor, he was the husband of Saint Kunigunde. Both are buried in the cathedral he built at Bamberg (Germany). Henry is remembered for combining his temporal leadership with piety and for supporting reform within the Church.

Common of Other Saints: other holy men and women, page 470.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
your bountiful grace raised Saint Henry
from the cares of an earthly reign to the kingdom of heaven.
Inspire us through his intercession
to live in this changing world with unchanging hearts
as we hasten toward the joy of your presence.

We ask this 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.

14 JULY CAMILLUS DE LELLIS, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Camillus was born at Bucchianico (Italy) in 1550 and died at Rome on this day in 1614. He was a soldier and a gambler when he experienced conversion. He was eventually ordained a presbyter after laying the foundations for the Servants of the Sick (Camillians), a religious community devoted to the care of the sick. Afflicted with lifelong ulcers, he is remembered for his special love for and service of the sick.

Common of Other Saints: those who carried out works of mercy, page 466.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you blessed the holy priest Camillus
with a singular love for the sick.
Through his merits
fill us with the spirit of your charity,
so that, having served you in our neighbour,
we may come before you confidently
at the hour of our death.

We ask this 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.

15 JULY **BONAVENTURE, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**
MEMORIAL

Born at Bagnoregio (Italy) about 1218, Bonaventure died at Lyons (France) on this day in 1274. He joined the Franciscans when studying in Paris and eventually became minister general of the order. Later he was appointed cardinal-bishop of Albano and died assisting Pope Gregory X during the Council of Lyons. Known as the “Seraphic Doctor,” Bonaventure is remembered as a teacher, for his extensive biblical and mystical writings, and for his holiness, gentleness, and compassion.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God,
grant that we who celebrate the entry into eternal life
of the holy bishop Bonaventure
may draw light from the brilliance of his teaching
and imitate the ardour of his love.

We ask this 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.

16 JULY **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

The cult of Mary under this title originated in the fourteenth century and came to be observed throughout the West during the eighteenth century. It commemorates the Virgin Mary as associated with Mount Carmel (Israel), site of the prophet Elijah’s altar to the one true God and of the twelfth century eremitical forerunners of the Carmelites. Mary is celebrated on this day as a model of reflection, solitude, and prayer.

Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Ordinary Time, page 434.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
let the gracious prayer of the glorious Virgin Mary
come to our aid,
so that, protected by her care,
we may reach the holy mountain,
which is Christ the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

21 JULY LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS,

DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Lawrence was born at Brindisi (Italy) in 1559 and died at Lisbon (Portugal) on this day in 1619. He was a presbyter in the Capuchin order and later became its minister general. A noted biblical scholar and linguist, he was charged with preaching to Lutherans. He organised Christian princes against the incursions of the Ottomans and is remembered for his zealous teaching and promotion of the Catholic reform that followed the Council of Trent.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461; or
Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
for the glory of your name and the salvation of souls
you endowed the holy priest Lawrence
with the spirit of counsel and fortitude.
Through his intercession
grant us these same gifts,
that we may know the things we ought to do
and have the courage to do them.

We ask this 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.

22 JULY **MARY MAGDALENE, DISCIPLE OF THE LORD**
MEMORIAL

A faithful disciple of Christ, Mary ministered to his needs after having seven devils cast out from her. She witnessed his crucifixion, was present at his burial, and was the first to see the risen Lord. She was commissioned by Christ to proclaim the good news of his resurrection to the apostles (John 20:17-18). Mary is remembered in the East as the "Apostle to the Apostles."

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
your only Son chose Mary Magdalene
to be his first messenger of Easter joy;
grant through her prayers and example
that we may proclaim the living Christ
and gaze on him one day in the glory of your kingdom,
where he lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we have presented
on this feast of Saint Mary Magdalene,
just as your Son graciously accepted
the homage she so lovingly offered.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
let our reception of this sacrament
fill us with that persevering love
which bound Saint Mary Magdalene
to Christ, her risen Master,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

23 JULY **BRIDGET OF SWEDEN, MARRIED WOMAN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**

Born in Sweden about 1303, Bridget died at Rome on this day in 1373. She was a devoted wife and the mother of eight children, one of whom was Saint Catherine of Sweden. After being widowed, Bridget founded a religious order (Bridgettines). She is remembered for her asceticism, her dedication to reform within the Church, and her lifelong mystical experience of Christ's passion.

Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468, or other holy men and women (for holy women), page 470.

**OPENING
PRAYER**

Lord our God,
as Saint Bridget pondered the suffering and death of your Son
you revealed to her the secrets of heaven;
grant that we, your servants,
may also rejoice in the revelation of your glory.

We ask this 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.

25 JULY **JAMES, APOSTLE**
FEAST

Born at Bethsaida in Galilee and a son of Zebedee, James was the first apostle to die. He was beheaded by Herod about 44. He was a fisherman, summoned by Jesus together with his brother Saint John (27 December). They were called the “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17). James appears as a favoured apostle: with Saint Peter (29 June) and Saint John he was present at the transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the agony in the garden.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
you called Saint James
to be the first of the apostles to shed his blood,
and so consecrated the firstfruits of their labours.
Strengthen the Church by his witness
and sustain it by his constant protection.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
receive our prayer on this feast of Saint James,
the first of the apostles to drink the cup of Christ’s suffering;
cleanse us in the saving baptism of your Son’s passion,
that we may offer a sacrifice pleasing to you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I or II, pages 632-634.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Assist us, O God,
through the prayers of the blessed apostle James,
on whose feast we have received your holy gifts with joy.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

26 JULY MEMORIAL **JOACHIM AND ANN, PARENTS OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

Joachim and Ann are named as Mary's parents in a late second century tradition. Churches dedicated to Saint Ann are found in Jerusalem and Constantinople from the middle of the sixth century. The feast of Saint Ann was kept in Rome by the eighth century, that of Saint Joachim from the fifteenth century. The feast honours the parents of the Virgin Mary and grandparents of the Lord.

**OPENING
PRAYER**

Lord, God of our ancestors,
you bestowed upon Saint Joachim and Saint Ann
the grace of bringing into this world
the Mother of your incarnate Son.
Listen to the prayers of this holy couple
and lead us to the salvation promised to your people.

We ask this 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.

**PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS**

Lord God,
receive the gifts we bring in homage,
and grant that we may share in the blessings
you promised to Abraham and his offspring.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION**

O God,
in a wonderful exchange
you willed that your Son be born into our human family,
so that we might be reborn of you.
In your loving-kindness
make holy by the spirit of adoption
the children you have nourished at your table.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

29 JULY **MARTHA, DISCIPLE OF THE LORD**
MEMORIAL

Martha was the sister of Mary and Lazarus of Bethany. She is honoured for her confession of faith in the Lord in which she beseeched him to restore life to her dead brother (John 11:27). She is remembered too for her hospitality to Jesus and her concern for the details of service to guests.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and ever-living God,
your Son honoured Saint Martha
by coming to her house as a guest.
Through her intercession
make us faithful servants of Christ in our neighbour,
and one day welcome us into your heavenly home.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
on this feast of Saint Martha
we proclaim that you are wonderful in your saints.
As her loving welcome of Christ was pleasing to you,
so may our reverent service find favour in your sight.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
by our sharing in the body and blood of your Son
free our hearts from unnecessary cares,
so that like Saint Martha
we may grow in undivided love for you on earth
and rejoice one day in the vision of your glory.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

30 JULY PETER CHRYSOLOGUS, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Born late in the fourth century at Imola (Italy), Peter died on 31 July about 450. As bishop of Ravenna he was known as “Chrysologus” (*golden-worded*). He is remembered for his eloquent sermons, his loyalty to the bishop of Rome, and his pastoral zeal.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you made the holy bishop Peter Chrysologus
an eloquent preacher of your incarnate Word;
through his prayers give us the grace
to ponder in our hearts the mysteries of salvation
and to reflect them faithfully in our way of life.

We ask this 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.

31 JULY **IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**
MEMORIAL

Ignatius was born at Loyola (Spain) in 1491 and died on this day at Rome in 1556. A Spanish nobleman trained in diplomacy and the use of arms, he was wounded in battle against the French. The experience of conversion while convalescing led him to write the Spiritual Exercises. He then founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and was its first superior general. Ignatius is remembered for his loyalty to the Church and its renewal, his ministry to the marginal, his concern for education, and his dedication “to the greater glory of God,” the motto of the Jesuits.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
to spread the greater glory of your name
you raised up Saint Ignatius of Loyola in your Church;
grant that by his help and example in our earthly struggle
we may receive with him a crown of glory in heaven.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Be pleased, Lord God,
with the offerings we have presented to you
as we celebrate the feast of Saint Ignatius,
and grant that these sacred mysteries,
which you have made the source of all holiness,
may sanctify us in the truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
let the sacrifice of praise
which we have offered in thanksgiving
on the feast of Saint Ignatius
lead us to the eternal praise of your glory.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

AUGUST

1 AUGUST MEMORIAL ALPHONSUS MARY LIGUORI, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Born at Naples (Italy) in 1696, Alphonsus died at Nocera on this day in 1787. He had been a lawyer before he became a presbyter. After founding the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), he was for thirteen years bishop of Sant' Agata dei Goti, but he resigned due to ill health. Alphonsus coped with much internal conflict within the congregation and external opposition. He is remembered as a popular preacher and devotional writer and as an influential master of moral theology.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you never cease to renew your Church
with fresh examples of holiness;
give us the zeal for souls of the holy bishop Alphonsus,
that, walking in his footsteps,
we may come to share his reward in heaven.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
by your favour Saint Alphonsus
celebrated these holy mysteries,
and through them offered himself
as a sacrifice pleasing to you.
In your mercy inflame our hearts as well
with the fire of your heavenly Spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,
in Saint Alphonsus you blessed your Church
with a faithful steward and fervent preacher of the eucharist;
inspire your people to come often to these mysteries
and here join in unending thanks and praise.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 AUGUST EUSEBIUS OF VERCELLI, BISHOP

Born in Sardinia in the early fourth century, Eusebius died at Vercelli (Italy) in 371. After his education in Rome, he was lector in Vercelli, then became its first bishop in 345. Because of his opposition to Arianism, he was exiled by the emperor Constantius and suffered many hardships, but was eventually restored to his diocese. He is remembered for his preaching, his doctrinal orthodoxy, and his defence of Saint Athanasius (2 May).

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lead us, O God,
to imitate the constancy of Saint Eusebius
in affirming your Son's divinity,
so that by keeping the faith which this holy bishop taught
we may come to share in the life of Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

2 AUGUST PETER JULIAN EYMARD, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Peter Julian was born in La Mure d' Isère (France) in 1811 and died there on 1 August 1868. Originally ordained a presbyter of the diocese of Grenoble, he joined the Society of Mary (Marists) in 1839. He founded the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (Blessed Sacrament Fathers) in 1856 and in 1858, with Marguerite Guillot, the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. Both congregations had as their special purpose promotion of perpetual exposition and adoration of the Eucharist. Peter Julian is remembered for his lifelong devotion to Christ's eucharistic presence and for promoting eucharistic adoration among priests and people.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you blessed Saint Peter Julian with a wondrous love
for the sacred mysteries of your Son's body and blood.
Grant, in your kindness,
that the rich blessings he received from this heavenly banquet
may be ours as well.

We ask this 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.

4 AUGUST **JOHN MARY VIANNEY, PRESBYTER**
MEMORIAL

Born near Lyons (France) in 1786, John Vianney died at Ars on this day in 1859. He overcame various obstacles, including little education and lack of means, to be ordained a presbyter. He served in the remote parish of Ars, where his sanctity attracted thousands of visitors. He is remembered for his preaching and confessional counsel and is honoured as a model for parish clergy.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454.

OPENING
PRAYER

God of power and mercy,
you made the holy priest John Vianney
a pastor devoted entirely to his flock.
By his example and prayers
grant that we may win for you
many brothers and sisters in the love of Christ,
and together with them attain everlasting salvation.

We ask this 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.

5 AUGUST **THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA
OF SAINT MARY IN ROME**

This major stational church of the ancient Roman liturgy, erected in the fourth century, was rebuilt and dedicated by Sixtus III following the proclamation at the Council of Ephesus (431) of the doctrine of Mary, Mother of God. It is considered the oldest church dedicated to our Lady in the Western world.

Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Ordinary Time, page 434.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord,
forgive the sins of your servants,
that we who cannot please you by our efforts alone
may be saved through the intercession
of the Mother of your Son.

We ask this 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.

6 AUGUST THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

FEAST

This feast had its origin in the East in the fourth century as the commemoration of the dedication of the church of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. It was observed in the West from the eighth century and extended to the entire Western Church in the fifteenth century. The feast celebrates the divine radiance shining in Christ's human flesh and God's glory shining forth in the lives of Christians.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
in the transfiguration of your only-begotten Son
you confirmed the mysteries of faith
by the witness of your prophets
and wonderfully foreshadowed
our full adoption as your children.
Grant that we, your people,
heeding the voice of your beloved Son,
may become heirs with him to eternal glory.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING Year A
PRAYER

God of glory,
it is good for us to be here.

Reveal your Son to us now
in the message of the prophets
and the witness of the apostles,
that we may heed his voice
and receive him in faith.

We ask this 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.

Year B Upon a high mountain,
O God of majestic glory,
you revealed Jesus
in the mystery of his transfiguration
as your Son, the Beloved,
to whom we must listen.

By the word of his gospel,
shining for ever as a light in the darkness,
give us hope in the midst of suffering
and faith to perceive, even in the passion and cross,
the glory of the risen Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Year C God and Father of Jesus,
you transfigured your Chosen One
and in heavenly light
revealed him as your Son.

Open our ears to the living Word
and our eyes to his glorious presence,
that we may be strengthened
in time of fear and uncertainty,
and one day pass over to share your glory.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
through the transfiguration of your only Son
sanctify the gifts we offer,
and by his radiant glory
cleanse us from the stain of sin.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Transfiguration of the Lord, page 608.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Grant, Lord God,
that the bread from heaven which we have received
may transform us into the likeness of Christ,
whose splendour you revealed
when he was transfigured in glory.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

7 AUGUST **SIXTUS II, POPE, MARTYR,
AND HIS COMPANIONS, MARTYRS**

Sixtus was elected bishop of Rome in 257 and was martyred on 6 August the following year during the persecution of the emperor Valerian. According to his contemporary, Saint Cyprian (16 September), he was “not so much killed as crowned,” along with four deacons, while addressing a congregation. One of the most popular Roman martyrs, he is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon).

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty God,
you enabled Saint Sixtus and his companions
to lay down their lives in fidelity to your word
and in witness to Christ your Son.
Transform us by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that we too may be prompt in believing
and strong in confessing Jesus the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

7 AUGUST **CAJETAN, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**

Cajetan was born at Vicenza (Italy) in 1480 and died at Naples on this day in 1547. He was a distinguished theologian and lawyer before becoming a presbyter. He established confraternities of clergy and laity to work among the sick and the poor, and he founded the Congregation of Clerks Regular (Theatines) to encourage reform among diocesan clergy. Cajetan is remembered for his pastoral care, his reforming zeal, and his practical help for the poor and the afflicted.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you inspired the holy priest Cajetan
to follow the apostolic manner of life;
through his prayers and example
grant us an unshakeable trust in you
and perseverance in seeking your kingdom.

We ask this 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.

8 AUGUST **DOMINIC, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**
MEMORIAL

Dominic was born at Calaruega (Spain) about 1170 and died at Bologna (Italy) on 6 August 1221. As an Augustinian canon he was noted for prayer, penance, and an exemplary life. In a time of violent crusades he sought the reconciliation of Albigensian heretics through instruction and prayer. He established the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) to revitalize the Church through study, teaching, preaching, and prayer. Dominic is remembered as a preacher, organiser, and patron of learning.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Assist your Church, Lord God,
by the merits and teaching of Saint Dominic.
On earth he was an outstanding preacher of your truth;
hear him now as he devotedly pleads our cause.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord of mercy,
at the intercession of Saint Dominic
hear the prayer we offer:
through the power of this sacrifice
strengthen and protect with your grace
all those who champion the faith.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Grant, Lord God,
that we may always cherish the grace of this holy sacrament
which has nourished us on the feast of Saint Dominic;
let your Church, that was once enriched by his preaching,
now receive the assistance of his prayers.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

10 AUGUST **LAWRENCE, DEACON, MARTYR**
FEAST

Lawrence died at Rome on this day in 258, four days after Saint Sixtus II (7 August), with whom he was closely associated. He is honoured for his almsgiving. He became, after the apostles, the most celebrated martyr of the Church of Rome. His cult spread throughout the Church from the fourth century. He is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon), and five ancient Roman churches are dedicated to him.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you inspired Saint Lawrence with so ardent a love
that his life was renowned for service
and his death for the glory of martyrdom.
Teach us to love what he loved
and to live according to his example.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
on this feast of Saint Lawrence
accept the gifts we joyously offer,
and grant that they may become
the help that leads us to salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Fed by these holy gifts,
we pray, Lord God,
that we may experience in the service we offer you
on the feast of Saint Lawrence
an increase of your saving grace.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

11 AUGUST **CLARE, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**
MEMORIAL

Born at Assisi (Italy) in 1193 or 1194, Clare died there on this day in 1253. From a well-to-do family, Clare embraced an evangelical way of life after hearing the preaching of Saint Francis of Assisi (4 October). She founded the order of the Poor Ladies, now the Poor Clares. Clare is remembered for her life of extreme poverty, austerity, contemplation, and charity.

Common of Other Saints: virgins (for a foundress), page 463, or religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Merciful God,
who led Saint Clare to a love of poverty,
grant by her prayers
that we may follow Christ in poverty of spirit
and so come to see you face to face
in the kingdom of heaven,
where he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

13 AUGUST **PONTIAN, POPE, MARTYR,**
AND HIPPOLYTUS, PRESBYTER, MARTYR

Pontian became bishop of his native Rome in 230 but was exiled to Sardinia, where he abdicated the papacy during the persecution of the emperor Maximinus in 235.

Hippolytus, a conservative theologian and presbyter, objected to the teaching of one pope and the election of the next and, in 217, went into schism. He has been regarded as the author of the *Apostolic Tradition*, whose eucharistic prayer forms the basis of Eucharistic Prayer II in the Roman Missal. Exiled along with Pontian, he was reconciled to the Church. Both died of mistreatment and were brought back to Rome for burial on this day, some time in the fourth century.

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438; or Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord,
grant that the sufferings of the just,
which are precious in your sight,
may increase our love for you
and make our hearts steadfast in the faith.

We ask this 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.

14 AUGUST
MEMORIAL

**MAXIMILIAN MARY KOLBE, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS,
MARTYR**

Born near Łódź (Poland) in 1894, Maximilian died at Auschwitz (Oświęcim) on this day in 1941. As a Conventual Franciscan presbyter, he used the printing press in Poland and in Japan to promote devotion to Mary. Interned in Auschwitz in 1941, he endured hard labour and offered his life in place of a fellow prisoner who had a family. He was condemned to death by starvation and was finally killed by lethal injection. He is remembered for his energy and poverty, his compassionate ministry, and his self-sacrifice.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you made your priest and martyr Saint Maximilian Kolbe
a devoted servant of the immaculate Virgin Mary
and filled him with zeal for souls and love of neighbour.
Grant through his prayers
that, as we strive to serve others for your glory,
we too may follow Christ even unto death.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

We place our gifts before you, Lord,
and earnestly pray
that, inspired by the example of Saint Maximilian,
we may learn to offer you our very lives.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
we pray that we, who have been nourished
by the body and blood of your Son,
may be inflamed by that same love
which Saint Maximilian received from this holy banquet.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

15 AUGUST
SOLEMNITY

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY INTO HEAVEN

This feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century as the “Falling-Asleep of the Mother of God.” It was adopted in Rome in the mid-seventh century and was renamed the “Assumption” in the next century. It celebrates Mary’s passing over, body and soul, from this world into the glory of her risen Son.

VIGIL MASS

This Mass formulary may be used on the evening of 14 August, either before or after Evening Prayer I of the solemnity.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
you looked with favour upon a humble virgin and raised her up,
so that she became the Mother of your only Son
and was crowned this day in heaven with incomparable glory.
Through the prayers of blessed Mary
may we who are saved by the mystery of your redemption
be raised by you to everlasting life.

Grant this 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.

ALTERNATIVE

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God,
you chose the Virgin Mary
to bear your incarnate Word,
and at her life’s end
you brought her in body and spirit to heavenly glory.

Grant that like Mary
we may hear your word and keep it
and one day share with her
the risen life of Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
on the feast of the assumption of Mary, the Mother of God,
accept this sacrifice of reconciliation and praise,
that it may bring us pardon for our sins
and make of our lives an endless thanksgiving.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven, page 610.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord our God,
we have been nourished at this heavenly banquet;
as we honour the assumption of the Mother of your divine Son,
deliver us, we pray, from all the evils that beset us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MASS DURING THE DAY

OPENING
PRAYER

God of power and life,
who chose the sinless Virgin Mary to be Mother of your Son
and raised her, body and soul, to the glory of heaven,
set our hearts upon the things that are above
and lift us up to share in her glory.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING
PRAYER

Faithful to your promise, O God,
you have lifted up the lowly,
clothing with heavenly splendour
the woman who bore Christ, our life and resurrection.

Grant that the Church, prefigured in Mary,
may bear Christ to the world
and come to share his triumph.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
may the sacrifice we offer rise up to you,
and by the prayers of the blessed Virgin Mary,
who was assumed this day into heaven,
may our hearts be inflamed with love
and aspire always to your holy presence.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven, page 610.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
you have raised the Virgin Mary to the glory of heaven;
through her intercession
grant that we who have shared this saving sacrament
may be brought to the glory of the resurrection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

16 AUGUST STEPHEN OF HUNGARY, MARRIED MAN, RULER

Born in Hungary about 975, Stephen died at Szekesfehervar on 15 August 1038. As Duke of the Magyars, he established dioceses and monasteries and used state power to enforce Christianity. With papal approval, he was crowned king of Hungary about 1000. Stephen is remembered for making Christianity the religion of the nation and for his justice to the oppressed and charity for the poor.

Common of Other Saints: other holy men and women, page 470.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty God,
grant that Saint Stephen,
who, as king of Hungary,
laboured to extend your Church on earth,
may now defend it with his prayers
from his place in heaven.

We ask this 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.

19 AUGUST JOHN EUDES, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER, EDUCATOR

John was born in Normandy (France) in 1601 and died at Caen on this day in 1680. Originally an Oratorian, he was active in preaching missions and in caring for the sick. He founded the Congregation of Jesus and Mary (Eudists), dedicated to the formation of presbyters, and to care for wayward women he helped to begin a community of women religious now known as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. He is remembered also for his promotion of devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468, or educators, page 467.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
who chose the holy priest John Eudes
to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ,
grant through his example and teaching
that we may grow in knowledge of you
and live faithfully by the light of the gospel.

We ask this 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.

20 AUGUST **BERNARD**, ABBOT, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
MEMORIAL

Bernard was born near Dijon (France) in 1090 and died at Clairvaux on this day in 1153. At the age of 21 he joined the impoverished, reformed abbey of Cîteaux. He soon became the founder and abbot of Clairvaux and pioneered the reform and expansion of the Cistercian Order. He was a prolific writer on theology and spirituality, an eloquent preacher, and an adviser of popes and kings. He is remembered as the most influential churchman of his age, for his inspirational leadership, and for his devotion to the humanity of Christ and to the Blessed Virgin.

Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461; or Common of Other Saints: religious (for an abbot), page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you so inflamed the abbot Bernard with zeal for your house
that he filled the Church with light and warmth;
grant through his intercession
that we may burn with the same spirit
and walk always as children of the light.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord of majesty,
we offer you the sacrament of unity and peace
on this feast of the holy abbot Bernard,
who strove in word and deed
to bring order and harmony to your Church.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
let the food we have received in this celebration
work its effect in our lives,
so that, strengthened by the example of Saint Bernard
and guided by his counsels,
we too may be seized with love for your incarnate Word,
who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

21 AUGUST **PIUS X, POPE**
MEMORIAL

Giuseppe Sarto was born at Riese (Italy) in 1835 and died at Rome on 20 August 1914. After being bishop of Mantua and patriarch of Venice, he was elected pope in 1903. In pursuit of his motto, “to renew all things in Christ,” he initiated reforms of the liturgy and of canon law and took stern measures against “modernist” trends in theology. His efforts to avert world war were frustrated. He is remembered for his poverty and for his promotion of liturgical participation, especially of frequent communion, to which he admitted young children.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a pope), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
to protect the Catholic faith
and to renew all things in Christ,
you filled Pope Saint Pius X
with apostolic courage and heavenly wisdom.
Grant that we may follow his teaching and example
and so receive the reward of eternal life.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept our offerings
and grant that, following the teaching of Saint Pius,
we may celebrate the eucharist with true reverence
and receive it with deep and living faith.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord our God,
as we honour the memory of Saint Pius,
grant that through the strength we receive at this holy table
we may remain steadfast in faith
and united in your love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

22 AUGUST THE QUEENSHIP OF THE VIRGIN MARY

MEMORIAL

This feast was established by Pius XII in 1955 and was celebrated on 31 May. Since 1969 it has been observed on 22 August to stress its relationship to the Assumption (15 August): taken up into glory, Mary became queen of heaven and earth.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you have given us the Mother of your Son
to be our Mother and Queen;
grant that, aided by her prayers,
we may share in heaven the glory of your children.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
as we keep the memory of the blessed Virgin Mary
we offer you our gifts,
praying that Christ,
who offered himself to you without blemish on the cross,
may by his humanity bring us strength and healing.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary I or II, pages 624-626.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
having received this heavenly sacrament,
we humbly pray
that we who revere the memory of the blessed Virgin Mary
may share with her in the eternal banquet.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

23 AUGUST ROSE OF LIMA, VIRGIN

Born at Lima (Peru) in 1586, Rose died there on 24 August 1617. Having chosen not to marry, she joined the Dominican Third Order and modelled herself on Saint Catherine of Siena (29 April). A recluse and mystic, Rose is remembered for her radiant love of God and for the severe penance and hardships she endured during serious illness. She was the first saint of the Americas to be canonised (1671).

Common of Other Saints: virgins, page 463, or religious, page 468.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you so inflamed Saint Rose with your love
that she left the things of this world
to serve you alone in penance and self-denial.
Grant through her prayers
that we may follow on earth the path of true life
and be filled in heaven with the torrent of your delights.

We ask this 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.

24 AUGUST **BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE**
FEAST

Bartholomew is named in the list of apostles and is generally identified with Nathaniel of Cana, the “Israelite without guile” (John 1:47), who was led to Jesus by the apostle Philip (3 May). He is said to have preached the gospel in India and in Armenia, where tradition indicates he was martyred.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord,
strengthen in us that faith
which made Saint Bartholomew ever loyal to your Son.
By the prayers of your apostle
grant that your Church may become for all nations
the sacrament of salvation.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
on this feast of the blessed apostle Bartholomew
we humbly pray
that, as we offer the sacrifice of praise in his honour,
we may through his intercession
receive the help of your grace.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I or II, pages 632-634.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Grant, Lord God, that the pledge of eternal salvation
we have received on this feast of the apostle Bartholomew
may be our help and support
now and in the life to come.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

25 AUGUST LOUIS OF FRANCE, MARRIED MAN, RULER

Born at Poissy (France) in 1214, Louis died near Tunis (Tunisia) on this day in 1270. As Louis IX, he was a devoted husband and the father of eleven children, whom he helped to raise in the Christian faith. He was regarded as a model Christian king at a time of great cultural achievement, but he led two disastrous crusades, on the second of which he died of typhoid. He is remembered for his impartial justice, for his care of the poor and the sick, and for honouring his word.

Common of Other Saints: other holy men and women, page 470.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you brought Saint Louis from the cares of earthly rule
to the glory of your kingdom in heaven.
Hear his prayers for us,
and grant that in fulfilling the tasks of our life on earth
we may seek your eternal kingdom.

We ask this 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.

25 AUGUST JOSEPH CALASANZ, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

EDUCATOR

Born in Aragon (Spain) in 1557, Joseph died at Rome on this day in 1648. A lawyer, theologian, and presbyter, he gave away much of his family fortune and devoted himself to providing free education for poor children in Rome. He founded the Clerks Regular of the Christian Schools (Piarists) and suffered many trials in later life at the hands of jealous colleagues and Church authorities. He is remembered especially for his patience in the midst of suffering.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468, or educators, page 467.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you endowed the holy priest Joseph
with such great love and patience
that he dedicated his life to teaching children
and forming them in virtue.
Grant that we who honour him as a wise teacher
may always follow his example
of faithful service to the truth.

We ask this 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.

27 AUGUST **MONICA, MARRIED WOMAN**
MEMORIAL

Monica was probably born at Tagaste (Algeria) about 331 and died at Ostia (Italy) in 387. Before her marriage her faith bore fruit in her recovery from a drinking problem and later helped bring her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Following many years of penance and prayer for her brilliant but wayward son Saint Augustine (28 August), Monica lived to see his conversion. Following his baptism in Milan, she died at the beginning of her journey home to Africa. She is remembered for her parental devotion, her patience, and her persistence in prayer.

Common of Other Saints: other holy men and women (for holy women), page 470.

OPENING
PRAYER

Merciful God, comforter of all who grieve,
you accepted Saint Monica's tears
for the conversion of Augustine, her son;
through their intercession
grant that we may weep for our sins
and receive the grace of your forgiveness.

We ask this 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.

28 AUGUST **AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**
MEMORIAL

Born at Tagaste (Algeria) in 354, Augustine died at Hippo (Tunisia) in 430. Though enrolled by his mother Monica as a catechumen, he renounced the Christian faith and espoused Manicheism. He taught in Carthage, Rome, and Milan. He lived for fifteen years with a woman who remains unknown and with whom he had a son, named Adeodatus. After a long inner struggle and under the influence of Saint Ambrose (7 December) and the prayers of his mother, Saint Monica (27 August), Augustine was converted and baptised in 387 together with his son. For thirty-four years he was bishop of Hippo, living a communal life with his clergy and serving the many needs of his people at a time of political and cultural collapse. He is remembered as a model pastor and as a preacher and writer whose thought has had an enduring influence in Christian history.

OPENING
PRAYER

Renew, O Lord, in your Church
the spirit you poured out upon the holy bishop Augustine,
so that, filled with the same spirit,
we may thirst for you,
the only source of true wisdom,
and search for you,
the author of eternal love.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Gracious and merciful Lord,
as we celebrate the memorial of our salvation,
we pray that this sacrament of your love
may become for us the sign of unity
and the bond of charity.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Sanctify us, O God,
by our sharing at the table of the Lord,
so that, made members of his body,
we may become what we have received.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

29 AUGUST THE MARTYRDOM OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
MEMORIAL

The execution of John the Baptist is recorded in the gospels (Matthew 14; Mark 6) and is placed by the historian Josephus at the fortress of Machaerus near the Dead Sea. As early as the fifth century, a commemoration of John the Baptist was kept on this day at Jerusalem. It probably marks the anniversary of the dedication of the basilica in his honour at Sebaste (Palestine) where, according to tradition, he was buried.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you chose Saint John the Baptist
to be the forerunner of your Son
both in birth and in death.
Grant that,
as John laid down his life for truth and justice,
we too may strive with courage
to bear witness to your word.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
through these gifts we offer
keep us faithful to the path of righteousness
which the Baptist proclaimed in the wilderness
and to which he bore heroic witness
by the shedding of his blood.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of John the Baptist, page 604.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord,
as we honour the birth into eternal life
of Saint John the Baptist,
grant that we may revere the sacrament of salvation
which we have received
and rejoice in its powerful effects.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

SEPTEMBER

1 SEPTEMBER GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH MEMORIAL

Born about 540, Gregory died in Rome in 604. While prefect of Rome, he founded monasteries there and in Sicily and himself became a monk. Called to be a deacon of Rome by Benedict I, he was then sent as papal legate to Constantinople. Elected pope in 590, he reorganised Church life and administration in a time of crisis, sponsored liturgical reform, and initiated the evangelisation of the English. He is remembered also for his extensive writings on pastoral care, spirituality, and morals, and for his self-designation as “servant of the servants of God.”

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a pope), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you guide your people with kindness,
you govern them with love.
Through the intercession of Pope Gregory the Great
grant to those who lead your flock the spirit of wisdom,
so that the growth of your Church in holiness
may bring eternal joy to its shepherds.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
by this sacrifice you have taken away the sins of the world.
As we offer it on the feast of Saint Gregory,
may it bring us closer to our salvation.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
you nourish us with Christ the living bread;
let Christ also be our teacher,
that on this feast of blessed Gregory
we may firmly grasp your truth
and express it in works of charity.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

8 SEPTEMBER THE BIRTH OF THE VIRGIN MARY

FEAST

This feast originated in Jerusalem about the sixth century, a development of the feast of the dedication of the church of Saint Anne, built in Jerusalem “where Mary was born.” Observed in Rome in the seventh century, it was later used to determine the date of Mary’s Immaculate Conception. Because of her importance in salvation history, Mary’s birthday is celebrated as well as those of her Son, the Lord, and of Saint John the Baptist (24 June).

OPENING
PRAYER

Bestow on your servants, Lord,
this gift of grace,
that we whose salvation took its beginning
in the birth of your Son from the Virgin Mary
may find in this celebration of her nativity
an increase in the gift of your peace.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
let the humanity of your only-begotten Son
come to our aid.
As the birth of Christ from the Virgin Mother
did not diminish but rather consecrated her virginity,
so may he take away our sins
and make our offering acceptable to you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary I or II, pages 624-626.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
you have refreshed your Church
with these sacred mysteries.
Let it now rejoice at the birth of the blessed Virgin Mary,
which was for all creation a sign of hope
and the daybreak of salvation.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

9 SEPTEMBER PETER CLAVER, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS

Born at Verdú (Spain) in 1580, Peter died in Cartagena (Colombia) on 8 September 1654. After entering the Society of Jesus he felt called to mission work in the New World and was sent to Colombia in 1610. He was ordained a presbyter in 1616 in Cartagena, a major port of entry for slaves brought from Africa. For the next thirty-four years, in the face of opposition from slave owners, he met the slave ships with a band of helpers and interpreters and ministered to the physical and spiritual needs of the slaves, catechising and baptising thousands. He died after suffering four years of debilitating illness. Peter called himself “the slave of the slaves” and is remembered for his total devotion to their needs and dignity.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: those who carried out works of mercy, page 466.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you made Saint Peter Claver a slave of the slaves
and strengthened him with marvellous and patient love in their service.
Grant through his intercession
that we may seek the things that are of Christ,
and love our neighbour both in deed and in truth.

We ask this 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.

13 SEPTEMBER **JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**
MEMORIAL

John was born in Antioch about 347 and died in exile in Comana (Turkey) on 14 September 407. After some years as a hermit, he was a presbyter at Antioch, where his brilliant preaching and catechesis earned him the sobriquet "Chrysostom" (*golden-mouthed*). He was appointed patriarch of Constantinople in 397. His reforms, preaching, and ascetic life led to opposition from court and clergy and eventual banishment. He is remembered for his simplicity of life, his care of the poor, the courage of his witness, and his effective preaching of the Scriptures.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
the strength of all who hope in you,
you gave the holy bishop John Chrysostom
a golden tongue to preach your word
and a will of iron to withstand persecution.
Open our minds to his teaching
and strengthen our hearts by his example of resolute endurance.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Be pleased, O God, with the sacrifice
we so gladly offer on this feast of John Chrysostom.
Faithful to his teaching,
we give ourselves and our song of praise entirely to you.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

God of mercy,
grant that the sacrament we have received
on this feast of Saint John Chrysostom
may make us strong in your love
and faithful in our witness to your truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

14 SEPTEMBER THE HOLY CROSS

FEAST

Originally this day commemorated the dedication of Constantine's Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in the fourth century; after the celebration, the wood of the cross was venerated. The feast spread in the West after the recovery of the relics of the cross from Persia in the seventh century. A feast of the Lord, it celebrates the "lifting up" of the Son of Man on the cross, into glory, and the paradox of the cross as a symbol of humiliation and death, yet the source of victory and life.

OPENING
PRAYER

All-powerful God,
in obedience to your will,
your only Son suffered death on the cross
to save the human race.
Grant that we who embrace this mystery on earth
may share the triumph of his redemption in heaven.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING
PRAYER

Lifted up among us, O God,
is Jesus the crucified:
sign of your steadfast love
and pledge of your will to save.

To those who look upon the cross with faith
grant healing of soul
and life eternal.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
may this sacrifice,
once offered on the altar of the cross
to take away the sin of the world,
free us now from all our offences.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Holy Cross I, page 612, or Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Nourished at this heavenly table,
we ask you, Lord Jesus Christ,
to lead to the glory of the resurrection
all whose salvation you purchased
by the life-giving wood of the cross.

You live and reign for ever and ever.

15 SEPTEMBER **OUR LADY OF SORROWS**
MEMORIAL

This commemoration originated in the medieval devotion to the seven sorrows of Mary. Approved for the Servite order in the seventeenth century, it was extended to the whole Western Church in 1814 by Pius VII in thanksgiving for his release from captivity under Napoleon. In the light of Simeon's prophecy about a sword piercing Mary's soul (Luke 2:35), the feast celebrates Mary, first disciple and first to share in the pain and triumph of the cross.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
when your Son was lifted high on the cross
you willed that his mother should stand beside him
and share his suffering.
Grant that your Church,
joined with Mary in the passion of Christ,
may share in the glory of his resurrection.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

For the glory of your name, God of mercy,
accept the prayers and offerings we present to you
in honour of the blessed Virgin Mary,
for by your will she became our loving mother
when she stood at the cross of Jesus.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary I or II, pages 624-626.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
we have received the sacrament of redemption;
grant that, as we recall how the Virgin Mary
shared in the passion of her Son,
we too may complete in our lives
what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ
for the sake of his body, the Church.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

16 SEPTEMBER
MEMORIAL

**CORNELIUS, POPE, MARTYR,
AND CYPRIAN, BISHOP, MARTYR**

Cornelius was elected bishop of Rome in 251 and, two years later, died in exile in Civitavecchia (Italy). Supported by Cyprian, he defended the power of the Church to reconcile those who had lapsed under persecution.

Cyprian was born at the beginning of the third century and died in Carthage (Tunisia) on 14 September 258. A lawyer, teacher, and adult convert, he was elected bishop of Carthage in 249 and led this Church in times of persecution. He took a moderate position on the reconciliation of the lapsed but, like other African bishops, demanded the rebaptism of heretics even though their baptism was recognised by the Church of Rome.

Cornelius and Cyprian are both remembered as compassionate pastors who developed the Church's teaching and practice of reconciliation. Antagonists in theological debate, they were united in sharing the crown of martyrdom and are named together in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon).

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you gave your people
the martyrs Cornelius and Cyprian
as diligent pastors and undaunted witnesses to Christ;
grant through their intercession
that we may be strong and constant in faith
and work eagerly for the unity of the Church.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept, O Lord, the gifts your people offer
as we celebrate the martyrdom of Cornelius and Cyprian,
and let the eucharist which gave them courage in persecution
make us steadfast in adversity.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
through the sacrament we have received
we pray that like the martyrs Cornelius and Cyprian
we may be empowered by your Spirit
to bear faithful witness to the truth of the gospel.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

17 SEPTEMBER **ROBERT BELLARMINE, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS,**

DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Robert was born in Tuscany (Italy) in 1542 and died in Rome on this day in 1621. A Jesuit presbyter and professor of theology at Louvain and Rome, he became a cardinal and then archbishop of Capua (Italy). After three years, he returned to Rome as a theological adviser to Paul V. An outstanding theologian, he expounded Church teaching in catechisms for the faithful and defended it comprehensively against Protestant positions. He is remembered for his dedication to the truth, his charity in disputation, and his austerity of life.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

**OPENING
PRAYER**

O God,
to defend the faith of your Church
you endowed the bishop Robert Bellarmine
with remarkable learning and holiness;
through his intercession
grant your people the joy
of preserving that faith in all its fullness.

We ask this 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.

19 SEPTEMBER **JANUARIUS, BISHOP, MARTYR**

Januarius, bishop of Benevento (Italy), is said to have been martyred near Naples in the great persecution of the emperor Diocletian at the beginning of the fourth century. Since the Middle Ages, a relic of his blood has been specially venerated in Naples. In this day's Office of Readings, Saint Augustine (28 August) recalls that we are saved by the blood of Christ, and in this common redemption he sees the source of strength for the ministry of bishop.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

**OPENING
PRAYER**

O God,
you give us this celebration
to honour the memory of the blessed martyr Januarius.
Bring us one day to share his fellowship
in the joy of eternal life.

We ask this 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.

20 SEPTEMBER
MEMORIAL

ANDREW KIM TAEAGON, PRESBYTER, MARTYR,
PAUL CHONG HASANG, CATECHIST, MARTYR,
AND THEIR COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Andrew Kim Taegon was the first Korean presbyter and Paul Chong Hasang a catechist and lay apostle. After more than two centuries of lay leadership, the Church in Korea was subject to fierce persecutions between 1839 and 1867. This feast commemorates 103 of the numerous Korean martyrs, representatives from all walks of life: men and women, married and unmarried, the elderly, teenagers and children, missionary bishops and presbyters. They are remembered for their fearless witness in the face of torture and death.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
Creator and Saviour of all nations,
you called to the Catholic faith in Korea
a people of adoption
and nurtured their growth by the glorious martyrdom
of Andrew, Paul, and their companions.
Grant by their example and prayers
that we too may persevere in your commandments,
even unto death.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Almighty God,
look with kindness on your people's gifts,
and, through the intercession of the holy martyrs,
make us a sacrifice of praise acceptable to you
for the salvation of all the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
in this celebration of your holy martyrs
we have been nourished with the food that gives strength;
grant that we too may remain loyal to Christ
and labour in your Church for the salvation of all.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

21 SEPTEMBER **MATTHEW, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST**
FEAST

Matthew, also known as Levi, was a Jew who collected taxes for the Romans at Capernaum in Galilee. Here Jesus met him and called him to be an apostle (Luke 5:27-28). Matthew is venerated as the author of the gospel which highlights Jesus' role as Messiah and underlines the presence of the kingdom of God in the Church.

OPENING
PRAYER

God of surpassing mercy,
you chose a tax collector, Matthew, to be an apostle;
grant that,
with his example and prayers to help us,
we may follow your call with unwavering hearts.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
in celebrating the memory of Saint Matthew
we bring our prayers and offerings before you;
look with favour on your Church,
whose faith you have nurtured by the preaching of the apostles.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I or II, pages 632-634.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
you have given us a share in that delight
with which Saint Matthew welcomed the Saviour
as a guest at his table.
Nourish us always with the food of Christ,
who came to call not the righteous
but sinners to repentance.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

26 SEPTEMBER COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS

Probably martyred in Syria, Cosmas and Damian were widely venerated in the fifth and sixth centuries when basilicas were dedicated to them in Constantinople and Rome and when their names were included in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon). Later legend identified them as twin brothers who practised medicine without charge to their patients.

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438.

OPENING PRAYER

Accept our praise, O Lord,
as we keep the memory of your saints Cosmas and Damian,
for in your wonderful providence
you have given to them the reward of eternal glory
and, to us, the help of their intercession.

We make our prayer 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
the death of your just ones Cosmas and Damian
is precious in your sight;
we offer you the sacrifice
in which all martyrdom finds its source and meaning.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
preserve within us the gift you have bestowed
on this feast of the martyrs Cosmas and Damian;
let it bring us your healing grace and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

27 SEPTEMBER MEMORIAL **VINCENT DE PAUL, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**

Born in Gascony (France) in 1581, Vincent died in Paris on this day in 1660. A parish priest, he worked for the apostolic renewal of the clergy, founding the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians or Lazarists) for missionary work in rural areas and for the formation of clergy. Committed above all to the oppressed and disadvantaged, he founded the Daughters of Charity with Louise de Marillac to work with the needy. He is remembered especially for his practical concern for the poor and the sick.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
for the service of the poor and the formation of the clergy
you endowed your priest Saint Vincent de Paul
with the courage and holiness of an apostle.
Give us that same spirit,
that we may love what he loved
and practice what he taught.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

O God,
you enabled Saint Vincent
to imitate the sacred mysteries that he celebrated.
By the power of this same sacrifice
transform our lives as well
into a gift that is pleasing in your sight.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
hear the plea
of those you have refreshed at this holy table,
that the example and prayers of Saint Vincent
may help us to imitate your Son
in preaching the good news to the poor.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

28 SEPTEMBER **WENCESLAUS, RULER, MARTYR**

Wenceslaus was born about 907 in Bohemia (Czech Republic) and was killed there about 929. Raised a Christian by his grandmother, he ruled Bohemia with Christian principles, worked for the education of his people, and sought harmony with neighbouring Germanic peoples. Opposition to these policies led to his murder at the hands of his brother's followers. This earliest Slav saint is remembered for his selflessness in promoting the Christian faith.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you taught the blessed martyr Wenceslaus
to prize the kingdom of heaven above an earthly crown;
grant through his prayers
that we may deny ourselves
and cling to you with all our hearts.

We make our prayer 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.

28 SEPTEMBER **LAWRENCE RUIZ, MARRIED MAN, MARTYR,
AND HIS COMPANIONS, MARTYRS**

This commemoration marks the witness of sixteen among the many martyred in Nagasaki (Japan) between 1633 and 1637. They include Lawrence Ruiz, a Filipino husband and father, together with other associates of the Dominican order, Asians and Europeans, lay women and men, religious and presbyters. They are remembered as courageous missionaries who sowed abundant seeds of the Christian faith in the Philippines, Taiwan, and Japan and who remained fearless in the face of death.

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
give us the endurance of your martyrs
Lawrence Ruiz and his companions
in serving you and our neighbour,
for those who suffer persecution for justice' sake
are blessed in the kingdom of heaven.

We ask this 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.

29 SEPTEMBER MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

FEAST

The cult of Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael began in the East. In the West, this day first marked the dedication of a fifth century church of Saint Michael in Rome. This festival of Michaelmas came to be very popular and widely celebrated in medieval Europe. Raphael and Gabriel were added to the Roman calendar in the twentieth century, and the three are now celebrated together. In the Scriptures (for example, Revelation 12:7-9, Luke 1:26-38, Tobit 3:16-25), each of the three angels is named as a messenger of God, entrusted with special divine missions on earth.

OPENING
PRAYER

All-provident God,
you arrange in wonderful order every ministry,
both human and angelic;
grant that the angels,
who stand before your face to serve you,
may guard and assist our lives on earth.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

O Lord,
we offer you this sacrifice of praise,
imploing that our sacrifice,
borne into your presence by the ministry of an angel,
may be pleasing in your sight
and helpful to our salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Angels, page 614.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Restored by the bread of heaven,
we ask, Lord God,
that in the strength of this food
we may advance in the way of salvation
under the watchful care of your angels.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

30 SEPTEMBER **JEROME**, PRESBYTER, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
MEMORIAL

Jerome was born about 340 at Strido on the Adriatic coast and died in Bethlehem on this day in 420. Baptised in Rome while studying the classics, he became a hermit in Syria for a time and was ordained a presbyter. Later retained as papal secretary by Saint Damasus (11 December), he began work on a new Latin translation of the Bible, known as the Vulgate. Finally settling in Bethlehem, where he founded monasteries, he devoted himself to studying the Scriptures, writing, and teaching. Often irascible and intolerant, he is remembered for his asceticism and scholarship and, above all, for his incomparable service to the word of God.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you inspired Saint Jerome, your priest,
with a passionate delight in Holy Scripture;
grant that your people
may be nourished more richly by your word
and find in it a wellspring of eternal life.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Following the example of Saint Jerome, O Lord,
we have pondered your word in Holy Scripture;
make us more eager now
to offer you the sacrifice of salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
let the gifts we have received with joy
on this feast of Saint Jerome
stir up our hearts,
so that by studying the Holy Scriptures
we may understand the path we are to follow
and, following it, may come to eternal life.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

OCTOBER

1 OCTOBER THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS, MEMORIAL DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Born at Alençon (France) in 1873, Thérèse died of tuberculosis at Lisieux on 30 September 1897. From a devout family, she entered a Carmelite monastery at fifteen, where she embraced the suffering of her ill-health with love and in service to the missionary spread of the gospel. Known through her popular autobiography and loved for her unaffected simplicity, Thérèse is remembered for her humble obedience and her fidelity to ordinary duties as the path to sanctity.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you promise your kingdom to the childlike and the humble;
enable us to follow with simple trust
the little way of Saint Thérèse,
so that through her intercession
your eternal glory may be revealed to us.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
on this feast of Saint Thérèse
we proclaim your glory in your saints,
and we humbly ask
that as her virtues were pleasing to you,
so our reverent worship may find favour in your sight.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
through the sacrament we have received
enkindle in us that ardent love
which moved Saint Thérèse to surrender herself to you
and to beg your mercy for the entire world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 OCTOBER THE GUARDIAN ANGELS
MEMORIAL

This feast originated in Portugal early in the sixteenth century and has figured in the general calendar since the late seventeenth century. It is based on the belief that God assigns everyone an angel to guard body and soul, an expression of God's personal care for each individual. A similar belief is also found in Jewish and other religious thought. The feast associates the human race with the eternal song of praise in heaven (Matthew 18:10).

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
in your mysterious providence
you send your holy angels as our guardians;
graciously hear the prayer we offer,
that we may have their constant protection on earth
and the joy of their company in heaven.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
receive the gifts we bring
on the feast of your holy angels,
and grant that under their constant protection
we may be freed from present dangers
and come to the joy of eternal life.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Angels, page 614.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
you nourish us with these great sacraments
on our journey to eternal life;
by the ministry of your angels
direct us in the way of salvation and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 OCTOBER FRANCIS OF ASSISI, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER
MEMORIAL

Francis was born in Assisi (Italy) in 1181 or 1182 and died nearby on 3 October 1226. The carefree son of a wealthy merchant, he gave up his inheritance to embrace utter poverty. Under a simple gospel rule, he and his Friars Minor were authorised to be mendicant preachers. His “Canticle of the Sun” captures his lyrical spirit and sense of oneness with all creatures. At the end of his life Francis bore in his flesh the marks of Christ’s suffering. An outstanding example of the beatitude “Blessed are the poor in spirit,” he is remembered for preaching the poor and crucified Christ in both word and humble action.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you conformed Saint Francis to the likeness of Christ
through a life of poverty and humility.
Grant that, walking in his ways,
we too may follow your Son,
and so be joined to you in charity and joy.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
as we bring these gifts before you,
prepare our hearts to celebrate the mystery of the cross,
which Saint Francis embraced
with such burning love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
through the holy gifts we have received,
grant that, imitating the apostolic charity and zeal
of Saint Francis,
we may come to know the saving power of your love
and be its heralds to all the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6 OCTOBER **BRUNO, PRESBYTER, HERMIT, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**

Bruno was born in Cologne (Germany) about 1032 and died in Calabria (Italy) on this day in 1101. Professor at the cathedral school of Rheims, he was appointed chancellor of the diocese and helped to reform the clergy. He founded the Carthusian order of hermits at Chartreuse near Grenoble. Called by his former pupil Urban II to assist in Rome for a time, Bruno subsequently established a second Charterhouse in Calabria. He is remembered especially for the poverty, solitude, and austerity of his way of life.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty God,
you called Saint Bruno to serve you
in a life of solitude;
grant through his intercession
that amid the uncertainties of this changing world
our hearts may find rest in you alone.

We ask this 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.

7 OCTOBER OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

MEMORIAL

This commemoration was established in 1573 in thanksgiving for a Christian victory over the Ottoman forces at Lepanto. It entered the general calendar in the eighteenth century. It is a memorial of the Virgin Mary as honoured in the rosary, a form of prayer combining the salutation of the angel (Luke 1:28) with meditation on the saving mysteries of Christ. Originally the rosary was the laity's "psalter," the *Hail Marys* replacing the 150 psalms.

OPENING PRAYER

Pour forth, O Lord, your grace into our hearts:
once through the message of an angel
you revealed to us the incarnation of Christ your Son;
now, with the prayers of the blessed Virgin Mary,
lead us through his passion and cross
to the glory of the resurrection.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Conform our hearts, O Lord, to the gifts we offer
and teach us to recall the mysteries of your only Son,
that we may be worthy of the promises of Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary I or II, pages 624-626.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
grant that we who proclaim in this sacrament
the death and resurrection of your Son
may be joined to his passion
and share in his consolation and glory.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

9 OCTOBER **DENIS, BISHOP, MARTYR,
AND HIS COMPANIONS, MARTYRS**

Denis died in Paris in the middle of the third century. According to a sixth century account, he was sent from Rome as the first bishop of Paris, where he was subsequently beheaded together with a presbyter and a deacon. His popularity flowered in the ninth century, when he was confused with a fifth century mystical author who in turn was taken to be Dionysius the Areopagite, disciple of Saint Paul (Acts 17:34). Denis is remembered as founder of the local Church of Paris.

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438.

**OPENING
PRAYER**

Lord our God,
you sent Saint Denis and his companions
to preach your glory to the nations
and made them steadfast in their sufferings;
grant that, following their example,
we may disdain the empty promises of this world
and not be cast down by its hardships.

We ask this 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.

9 OCTOBER **JOHN LEONARDI, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER**

Born at Lucca (Italy) about 1541, John died helping the sick in Rome on this day in 1609. He was active in the years immediately after the Council of Trent, publishing a catechism and establishing a confraternity of Christian doctrine. He helped form the seminary of the Propagation of the Faith in Rome and founded a local congregation of diocesan presbyters for the reform of clerical life. John is remembered for his vigorous encouragement of the reforms of the Council.

Common of Pastors: missionaries, page 458; or Common of Other Saints: those who carried out works of mercy, page 466, or religious, page 468.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,
giver of all good gifts,
you raised up your holy priest John Leonardi
to preach the gospel to the nations;
through his intercession
grant that at all times and in every place
the true faith may yield an abundant harvest.

We make our prayer 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.

14 OCTOBER **CALLISTUS I, POPE, MARTYR**

Callistus died in a civil disturbance in Rome about 222 and has been venerated as a martyr since the fourth century. He was born a slave and served a sentence as a convict. After his release, he was ordained a deacon and was eventually elected bishop of Rome. Rigorist opponents accused him of misunderstanding the doctrine of the incarnation and of laxity in Church discipline. He is remembered for encouraging the reconciliation of sinners and for his pastoral solicitude for those preparing to marry.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a pope), page 450.

**OPENING
PRAYER**

Lord,
in your mercy hear the prayers of your people,
and grant us your assistance
through the merits of Pope Saint Callistus,
whose martyrdom we celebrate with joy.

We ask this 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.

15 OCTOBER **TERESA OF JESUS, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**
MEMORIAL

Born at Avila (Spain) in 1515, Teresa died at Alba de Tormes in 1582. She left her aristocratic family for the Carmelite monastery in Avila at the age of twenty, but it was only after two decades of dryness in prayer that she felt an inner conversion to Christ. She is honoured as a spiritual writer and mystic who experienced and comprehensively described the life of prayer. Teresa is remembered as a strong, practical reformer who restored the strict Carmelite observance of poverty, solitude, and austerity.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
through the Holy Spirit you raised up Teresa of Jesus
to show your Church the way of perfection.
Nourish our minds with her spiritual teaching,
and set our hearts on fire
with a longing for true holiness.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Be pleased, Lord, to accept the gifts we present,
even as you were pleased
by the devoted service of Saint Teresa.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord our God,
you have nourished with the bread of heaven
this family dedicated to your service;
may we, like Saint Teresa, sing for ever
of your loving-kindness.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

16 OCTOBER **HEDWIG, MARRIED WOMAN, RELIGIOUS**

Hedwig was born in Bavaria (Germany) about 1174 and died at Trebnitz (Poland) on 15 October 1243. Married at a young age to Henry, Duke of Silesia, she was the mother of seven children. She is remembered for founding religious houses and hospitals, for her charity to the poor, and for her efforts at peacemaking. After the death of her husband, she retired to live in a Cistercian convent which she had founded.

Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty God,
in the admirable life of Saint Hedwig
you have given your people
an outstanding example of humility;
grant that her intercession
may bring us help from heaven.

We make our prayer 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.

16 OCTOBER **MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS**

Born in Burgundy (France) in 1647, Margaret Mary died on 17 October 1690 at Paray-le-Monial. After an unhappy childhood, she entered a Visitation convent, where she experienced several visions of Christ's love. She patiently bore the rejection and contempt of her superiors and others, and she persevered in promoting devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for which she is now especially remembered.

Common of Other Saints: virgins, page 463, or religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
pour out on us that spirit
with which you so remarkably endowed Saint Margaret Mary;
grant that we may know the love of Christ,
which surpasses all knowledge,
and be filled with all the fullness of the divine life.

We make our prayer 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.

17 OCTOBER **IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR**
MEMORIAL

Ignatius, probably a Syrian, was martyred in Rome about 107. At Antioch, where he was bishop, his death has been commemorated on this day since the fourth century. He is remembered for seven letters written on his way to execution. They show him to be devoted to Christ and his resurrection; they urge Christians to unity in and through the eucharist and around their local bishop. Ignatius called himself the “God-bearer.”

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
you ennoble the whole body of your Church
by the witness of its holy martyrs;
grant that the suffering which brought Ignatius
of Antioch eternal glory
may bring us your unfailing protection.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
be pleased with our devoted offering,
even as you were pleased to accept Ignatius,
who by suffering a martyr’s death
offered himself as the wheat of Christ
to be ground into a pure bread.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Refresh us, Lord, with the bread of heaven,
which we have received on this feast of the martyr Ignatius,
and through it make us Christian
not only in name but in deed.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

18 OCTOBER **LUKE, EVANGELIST**
FEAST

By early Christian tradition, Luke is named as author of the Third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Almost certainly a Gentile and perhaps a companion of Saint Paul (29 June), he wrote to reassure those who had grown uncertain toward the end of the first century. In his gospel, the compassion of Christ is inclusive of all: Gentile and Jew, the poor and the rich, women and men, the outcast and the privileged.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you chose Saint Luke
to reveal by his preaching and writing
the mystery of your love for the poor;
grant that those who now glory in your name
may continue to be of one heart and mind
and that all nations may come to see your salvation.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
may your gifts from heaven
free our hearts for your service,
that the sacrifice we offer on the feast of Saint Luke
may heal our infirmities
and lead us to eternal glory.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles II, page 634.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Almighty God,
through the gift we have received at your holy altar
make us holy
and establish us firmly in the faith of the gospel,
which Saint Luke proclaimed.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

19 OCTOBER JOHN DE BRÉBEUF AND ISAAC JOGUES,
PRESBYTERS, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARIES, MARTYRS,
AND THEIR COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

John de Brébeuf (1593-1649) and Isaac Jogues (1607-1646) are named in this group of eight North American martyrs, French Jesuits of whom two were lay assistants and six were presbyters. Against a background of conflict between French and English and between Huron, Mohawk, and Iroquois, they went as missionaries teaching the message of Christ in the local languages. They are remembered for the hardship they suffered for the sake of the gospel, eventually embracing even torture and death.

Common of Martyrs: several martyrs, page 438; or Common of Pastors: missionaries, page 458.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty God,
you blessed the firstfruits of the faith in North America
through the preaching and martyrdom
of Saint John, Saint Isaac, and their companions;
grant, in your goodness,
that by their intercession the harvest of Christians
may increase daily throughout the world.

We ask this 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.

19 OCTOBER PAUL OF THE CROSS, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Born at Ovada (Italy) in 1694, Paul died in Rome on 18 October 1775. After some years of uncertainty, he felt called to found a new congregation, the Passionists, who combined a strict penitential discipline with intense devotion to the passion of Christ and whose work was both active and contemplative. Paul is remembered for his prophetic preaching in parish missions, for calling sinners to repentance, and for his special gifts of healing.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you inspired the holy priest Paul
with a singular love for the cross.
Let his prayers win us your grace
and his example stir up our hearts
to embrace our own cross with courage.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Almighty God,
look kindly on the sacrifice we offer
on this feast of Saint Paul of the Cross,
and grant that we may conform our lives
to the mystery of the Lord's passion,
which we celebrate in this sacrament.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

O God,
in the life of blessed Paul
you revealed the mystery of the cross;
grant that by the power of this sacrifice
we may hold fast to Christ your Son
and labour in his Church for the salvation of all.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

23 OCTOBER JOHN OF CAPESTRANO, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY

Born in Capestrano (Italy) in 1386, John died on this day in 1456 at Ilok (Croatia). Though a married man and governor of Perugia, he decided to join the Friars Minor. After being released from his marriage vows, he was professed as a Franciscan at the age of thirty and was ordained a presbyter three years later. John was a successful preacher, committed Franciscan reformer, zealous inquisitor in Vienna, and spiritual leader of a victorious crusade against the Ottoman forces. He is remembered for his preaching and austerity of life.

Common of Pastors: missionaries, page 458; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you raised up Saint John of Capestrano
to strengthen your faithful people in their time of distress.
Keep us safe under your protection
and guard your Church in unfailing peace.

We ask this 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.

24 OCTOBER ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Anthony was born in Sallent (Spain) in 1807 and died in exile in France on this day in 1870. After more than a decade preaching missions and retreats in Catalonia, he founded a religious institute, later known as the Claretians, for this work. Appointed archbishop of Santiago (Cuba), he aroused opposition for his spiritual and social reforms and for championing the rights of the indigenous peoples. Finally, as chaplain to Queen Isabella II, he drew the arts and sciences into his missionary endeavour. He is remembered for his work of religious renewal through the spoken and printed word.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450 or missionaries, page 458;
or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
you strengthened the holy bishop Anthony Mary
with outstanding charity and patience
in preaching the gospel;
grant through his intercession
that we may seek those things that belong to you
and give ourselves wholly to winning others for Christ.

We ask this 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.

28 OCTOBER **SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES**

FEAST

Simon “the Less” is also called “the Canaanite” and “the Zealot.” Jude “(son) of James” (Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13) was traditionally thought to be the same person as Jude, brother of James and author of the letter of Jude; he may also be the one called “Thaddeus” (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18). A tradition has Simon and Jude preaching and being martyred in Persia. They are honoured among the twelve apostles, the first followers of Christ.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
through the blessed apostles
you brought us to the knowledge of your name.
At the intercession of Saint Simon and Saint Jude,
grant to your Church continued growth
and increase the number of those who believe in you.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
each year we recall the lasting glory
of your holy apostles Simon and Jude.
Accept our prayers this day,
and lead us to celebrate worthily
these sacred mysteries.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I or II, pages 632-634.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
having partaken of this sacrament,
we pray in the Holy Spirit
that this celebration to honour the martyrdom
of the apostles Simon and Jude
may keep us steadfast in your love.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

NOVEMBER

1 NOVEMBER **ALL SAINTS** SOLEMNITY

This feast began in the East to commemorate all martyrs and was progressively adopted in the West. It was celebrated on this day in the eighth century and was soon widely observed. Honoured today are all holy men and women in glory with Christ: known or unknown, mighty or lowly, all whose lives were modelled on the Beatitudes and on the great commandment of love.

For a Votive Mass of All Saints, see page 1145.

OPENING PRAYER

All-holy and eternal God,
you have given us this feast
to celebrate on one day
the holy men and women of every time and place.
Through their manifold intercession
grant us the full measure of your mercy,
for which we so deeply long.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE OPENING PRAYER

All-holy God,
you call your people to holiness.

As we keep the festival of your saints,
give us their meekness and poverty of spirit,
a thirst for righteousness,
and purity of heart.

May we share with them the richness of your kingdom
and be clothed in the glory you bestow.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Be pleased, Lord, with the gifts we offer
in honour of all the saints.
We believe they have reached the haven of eternal life;
grant that we may experience their prayers for our salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of All Saints, page 616.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

We adore you, Lord God,
for you are the holy one
and are glorified in all your saints.
We implore your grace,
that we may reach the full measure of holiness and love
and pass from this table where we gather as a pilgrim people
to the banquet prepared for us in heaven.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

BLESSING: Solemn Blessing, page 933.

2 NOVEMBER THE COMMEMORATION
OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
(ALL SOULS)

This day of commemoration began early in the Middle Ages with annual prayers for the dead in monastic communities. Fixed on this day, it spread more widely after the tenth century and now ranks with the principal feast days in the liturgical calendar. Commonly known as All Souls, it expresses Christian faith in the communion of saints and our need to pray for one another in the Church, especially those souls in purgatory, “who have been buried in their human imperfection.”

Even when 2 November falls on a Sunday, the commemoration of all the faithful departed is celebrated. The priest may choose from the following prayers.

OPENING
PRAYER

God of loving-kindness,
listen favourably to our prayers:
strengthen our belief that your Son has risen from the dead
and our hope that your departed servants will also rise again.

We ask this 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.

Or: O God,
glory of believers and life of the just,
by the death and resurrection of your Son, we are redeemed:
have mercy on your departed servants
and make them worthy to share the joys of paradise,
for they believed in the resurrection of the dead.

We ask this 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.

Or: God, our Creator and Redeemer,
by your power your only Son has conquered death
and has passed from this world into your kingdom.
Grant that all the faithful departed
may share his triumph over death
and enjoy for ever the vision of your glory.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
be pleased by our offering
and gather your departed servants into glory with your Son,
in whose great mystery of love we are all united.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or: By this sacrifice, merciful God,
wash away in the blood of Christ
the sins of our departed brothers and sisters.
You cleansed them once in the water of baptism;
in your mercy grant them pardon and eternal rest.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

Or In your kindness, Lord,
accept our offering for all who sleep in Christ,
that by the power of his unique sacrifice
they may be freed from the shackles of death
and enter the kingdom of life eternal,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Christian Death I-V, pages 690-698.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

God of the living,
welcome into your haven of light and peace
all the faithful departed,
for whom we have celebrated
the mysteries of Christ's death and resurrection.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or: Lord,
we have received the sacrament of your only Son,
who was sacrificed for us and rose in glory.
We humbly pray for the faithful departed,
that, purified by these paschal mysteries,
they may share in the glory of the final resurrection.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or: Lord,
you have accepted this sacrifice,
offered for our departed brothers and sisters.
Bless them with your mercy
and crown the grace they received in baptism
with the full measure of eternal joy.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING: Solemn Blessing, page 958.

3 NOVEMBER **MARTIN DE PORRES, RELIGIOUS**

Martin was born in Lima (Peru) in 1579, an illegitimate child of mixed race. He died there on this day in 1639. Trained as a barber and infirmarian, he was accepted as a Dominican brother. He is remembered for his humility and holiness, his ministry to African slaves, and his dedicated service of the poor and the sick of all races.

Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

**OPENING
PRAYER**

Lord our God,
you guided Saint Martin de Porres
along the path of humility to the glory of heaven;
grant that we may follow his remarkable example
and so be exalted with him in paradise.

We ask this 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.

4 NOVEMBER **CHARLES BORROMEO, BISHOP**
MEMORIAL

Born in Arona (Italy) in 1538, Charles died on this day in 1584 in Milan. He was only twenty-two when he was appointed cardinal, secretary of state, and given the administration of the diocese of Milan by his uncle, Pius IV. He was prominent in the final sessions of the Council of Trent during 1562 and 1563 and, at its end, was ordained a presbyter and then bishop. As archbishop of Milan, Charles became known for implementing the Council's reforms in liturgy, education, presbyteral formation, and diocesan organisation. He is remembered as an exemplary and pastoral bishop and an ardent proponent of reform and renewal.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord,
keep alive in your people
the spirit you imparted to your bishop Charles Borromeo
and renew your Church unceasingly,
so that, being conformed to the image of Christ,
it may show his true likeness to the world.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Look with favour, Lord,
on the gifts we have placed upon your altar
on this feast of Saint Charles.
You raised him up as a model of pastoral care
and distinguished virtue;
grant by the power of this sacrifice
that our lives too may abound in good works.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
let the holy mystery which we have received
imbue us with that same strength of spirit
which made Saint Charles
faithful in ministry and fervent in charity.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

9 NOVEMBER
FEAST

THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME

The Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of the diocese of Rome, was dedicated to Christ the Saviour in the fourth century. The anniversary has been celebrated as a feast of the Latin Church on this date since the twelfth century. It honours the local Church of Rome as a link with earliest Christian tradition and as a sign of our communion in Christ.

OPENING
PRAYER

God of majesty,
you choose living stones
to fashion for yourself an eternal dwelling place.
Increase the spiritual gifts you have given to your Church,
that your faithful people may continue to grow
and so build up the new and heavenly Jerusalem.

We ask this 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.

Or: God of blessings,
you gave to your assembled people the name of Church:
grant that all who gather in your name
may love, reverence, and follow you,
and under your governance
be brought to the life of glory that you promise.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING
PRAYER

God all-holy,
in every place on earth
you gather your people into your presence
to proclaim the wonders of your love.

As we celebrate the dedication
of the cathedral church of Rome,
deepen our unity with your faithful throughout the world
and build us up into a house of prayer for all nations.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept, Lord, the sacrifice we offer,
and grant that all who seek your aid
may be strengthened by the power of the sacraments
and receive an answer to their prayers.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Dedication of a Church II or III, pages 680-682.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

O God,
you chose to foreshadow in your Church on earth
the new and heavenly Jerusalem.
Through our sharing in this sacrament,
fashion us into a temple of your grace
and lead us one day to the place where your glory dwells.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING: Solemn Blessing, page 956.

10 NOVEMBER **LEO THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**
MEMORIAL

Elected pope in 440, Leo died in Rome on this day in 461. He tried to protect the city from the devastation of barbarian invasion. His surviving letters illustrate the leadership and guidance he exercised as bishop of Rome toward other Churches in the West. He is remembered for the clarity of his thought on the two natures of Christ, affirmed at the Council of Chalcedon, for his eloquent sermons, and for the prayers he composed for the Roman liturgy.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a pope), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
you will never permit the gates of hell
to prevail against your Church,
founded as it is on the rock of Peter.
Grant through the intercession of Pope Leo the Great
that the Church may stand firm in your truth
and enjoy the grace of lasting peace.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
by the gifts we bring
fill your Church with light,
that your flock may everywhere prosper,
and that under your guidance
its shepherds may be pleasing to you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
in your goodness govern the Church,
whose life you foster at the table of the eucharist;
grant that under your firm guidance
your Church may prosper in freedom
and persevere in the integrity of faith.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

11 NOVEMBER **MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP**
MEMORIAL

Martin was born in Pannonia (Hungary) about 316, died in 397, and was buried on this day in Tours (France). As a catechumen, he was in conscience unable to continue with military service. Martin was baptised at the age of eighteen, for a time became a hermit, and then worked to establish monasticism in the West. He was bishop of Tours for twenty-five years. One of the first non-martyrs to be venerated as a saint, he is widely remembered for his legendary generosity to the poor, for arguing against the persecution of heretics, and especially for his active evangelisation and pastoral care of rural areas.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
the life and the death of the holy bishop Martin
proclaimed your glory;
renew in our hearts the wonders of your grace,
so that neither death nor life may separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
sanctify the gifts we offer with gladness
on the feast of Saint Martin,
so that in joy and in sorrow
the eucharist may always shape our lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the sacrament of unity;
keep us in perfect accord with your will,
so that, like Saint Martin who obeyed you in all things,
we too may glory in belonging entirely to you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 NOVEMBER **JOSAPHAT, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS, MARTYR**
MEMORIAL

Born in Vladimir (Ukraine) in 1580, Josaphat died at Vitebsk (Belarus) on this day in 1623. A Basilian monk, he became archbishop of Polotsk. He worked strenuously to uphold and spread the Union of Brest-Litovsk by which Churches of the province of Kiev, with their Byzantine liturgy and customs, had entered into communion with Rome. In a complex situation of national and religious antagonism, he was killed by violent opponents. He is remembered for his energetic pastoral reform and courageous ecumenism.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Stir up in your Church, O Lord, the Holy Spirit,
who moved Saint Josaphat to give his life for his people,
so that through his intercession
we too, in the strength of the same Spirit,
may not fear to lay down our life for our friends.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

God of all mercy,
pour forth your blessing upon these gifts,
and strengthen us in that faith
which Saint Josaphat proclaimed by the shedding of his blood.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Grant, O God, that this holy meal
may bring us the Spirit of courage and peace,
so that like Saint Josaphat
we may gladly spend our lives
for the honour and unity of your Church.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

15 NOVEMBER **ALBERT THE GREAT, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS,
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

Albert was born in Lauingen (Germany) about 1200 and died in Cologne on this day in 1280. The “Universal Doctor” was a Dominican friar and teacher, most notably in Paris and in Cologne where Saint Thomas Aquinas (28 January) was his pupil. He was briefly bishop of Regensburg, but resigned the see to return to teaching and writing. Albert is remembered for the outstanding breadth of his learning in the natural sciences, Jewish and Arabic studies, and Greek philosophy, all of which he brought to the service of his theology.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
in your holy bishop Albert
you so wonderfully blended human wisdom and divine faith
that your people rightly call him great.
Keep us true to his teaching,
so that through the progress of all the sciences
we may come to know and to love you more profoundly.

We ask this 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.

16 NOVEMBER **MARGARET OF SCOTLAND, MARRIED WOMAN, QUEEN**

Born in Hungary about 1046, Margaret died in Edinburgh (Scotland) on this day in 1093. Of Anglo-Saxon and Hungarian parentage, she found refuge from the Norman conquest of England with Malcolm III of Scotland. They were married in 1070, and she bore eight children. Margaret reformed the royal court, founded monasteries, and sponsored major reforms of Church life. She is remembered for the happiness of her marriage, for her devotion to prayer and learning, and especially for her generosity to the poor.

Common of Other Saints: those who carried out works of mercy, page 466.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you made Saint Margaret of Scotland
a wonderful model of love for the poor;
grant through her prayers and example
that our lives may present to others
a reflection of your own goodness.

We ask this 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.

16 NOVEMBER **GERTRUDE THE GREAT, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS**

Born about 1256, Gertrude died at Helfta (Germany) about 1302. From five years of age, she was entrusted to Benedictine or possibly Cistercian nuns, among whom she experienced a deep conversion at the age of twenty-five and lived a life of mystical contemplation. Gertrude found Christ in the liturgy and Scripture, and on this foundation she developed her devotion to the humanity of Jesus and, together with it, a love of the heart of Jesus. She is remembered as one of the most important of medieval mystics.

Common of Other Saints: virgins, page 463, or religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
how lovely the dwelling place you prepared for yourself
in the heart of the virgin Gertrude;
in answer to her prayers,
shine in the darkness of our hearts,
that we may rejoice in your presence working within us.

Grant this 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.

17 NOVEMBER **ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, MARRIED WOMAN, RELIGIOUS**
MEMORIAL

Born in Bratislava (Slovakia) in 1207, Elizabeth was married at the age of fourteen, widowed at twenty, and died at twenty-four in Marburg (Germany) on this day in 1231. Mother of three children, she was happily married to Ludwig of Thuringia. When Ludwig died of the plague while on crusade, she continued to protect the poor and founded orphanages and hospitals, living this life of service as a Franciscan tertiary despite the hostility of her relatives and the harshness of her confessor. She is remembered for her good-humoured resilience in adversity and for her humility in menial service of the needy.

Common of Other Saints: those who carried out works of mercy, page 466.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you taught Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
to see and reverence Christ in the poor.
Through the power of her prayers
grant that we too may serve with tireless love
all those in need or distress.

We ask this 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.

18 NOVEMBER **THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICAS
OF THE APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL IN ROME**

Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, built in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and Saint Paul's Basilica, built in the nineteenth century, both replaced older buildings erected by Constantine in the fourth century over the tombs of the apostles Peter and Paul. The dedications of these churches have been commemorated together on this day since the twelfth century. As on 29 June, the universal Church joins the Church of Rome in honouring its apostles.

OPENING
PRAYER

Shelter your Church, O Lord,
under the protection of your apostles.
From them the Church first heard the good news of salvation;
through them may it grow in grace until the end of time.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
as we present these gifts to you in worship,
we appeal to your mercy:
preserve unchanged in our hearts
the truth handed on to us
through the ministry of the apostles Peter and Paul.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I, page 632.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Grant, Lord God,
that we who have received the bread of heaven
on this feast of the apostles Peter and Paul
may find joy in their protection and guidance.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

21 NOVEMBER **THE PRESENTATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY**
MEMORIAL

This memorial originally marked the dedication of a sixth century church of the Virgin Mary near the Temple of Jerusalem. The East took it up as a celebration of Mary's presentation to God in the Temple at the age of three, a non-biblical story from the apocryphal gospel of James. Established in the West late in the Middle Ages, the feast was universally observed by the sixteenth century. It celebrates Mary in her grace-filled life, wholly given over to the Holy Spirit from the time of her conception.

Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Ordinary Time, page 434.

OPENING
PRAYER

Grant, O Lord,
that we who honour the glorious memory
of the blessed Virgin Mary
may through her intercession
come to share in the fullness of your grace.

We ask this 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.

22 NOVEMBER **CECILIA, VIRGIN, MARTYR**
MEMORIAL

Though a late fourth century church in Rome was named after her, nothing is known of Cecilia's life or death. Popular legends were written about her in the late fifth century, and in the sixteenth century she was named the patron of music. Tradition remembers Cecilia as a virgin, martyred for the faith. Her name is included in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon).

Common of Martyrs: virgin martyr, page 448; or Common of Other Saints: virgins, page 463.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord God,
draw near to us
who call upon you in prayer,
and, through the intercession of Saint Cecilia,
graciously hear our songs of praise.

We ask this 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.

23 NOVEMBER CLEMENT I, POPE, MARTYR

Clement of Rome died in New Testament times, at the end of the first century. His name is included in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon). He is remembered for a letter written from the Church at Rome to the Church at Corinth, an important witness to the emergence of ministries and authority in the Church and to the pastoral responsibility of Rome to another Church.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a pope), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are wonderful in the holiness of your saints.
Fill us with joy on this yearly feast of Saint Clement,
for, as martyr and priest of your Son,
he bore witness by his blood to the mysteries he celebrated,
and confirmed by his example the gospel he preached.

We ask this 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.

23 NOVEMBER COLUMBAN, ABBOT, MISSIONARY

Born in Leinster (Ireland) about 543, Columban died on this day in 615 at Bobbio (Italy). A monk and teacher at Bangor until middle aged, he left with twelve companions as “exiles for Christ” to found monasteries in Burgundy (France). Against opposition, he insisted on maintaining strict Celtic customs and usages. Expelled for denouncing royal misconduct, he went on to extend the Irish mission through the Alps and into Italy. Author of a monastic rule and a penitential, he is remembered for his austerity of life, his missionary energy, and his role in the development of individual confession.

Common of Pastors: missionaries, page 458; or Common of Other Saints: religious (for an abbot), page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
in Saint Columban you have given us
a wonderful model of missionary zeal
joined with love of the monastic life.
Grant through his intercession and example
that we may seek you above all things,
and work to enlarge the company
of those who believe in you.

We ask this 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.

24 NOVEMBER
MEMORIAL

**ANDREW DUNG-LAC, PRESBYTER, MARTYR,
AND HIS COMPANIONS, MARTYRS**

Andrew (1795-1839), baptised at the age of fifteen, worked first as a lay missionary and then as a diocesan presbyter before being beheaded at Hanoi (Vietnam). He is listed among 117 canonised martyrs who died in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. The group comprises ninety-six Vietnamese, eleven Spanish Dominicans, and ten presbyters from the Paris Foreign Mission Society. They are remembered as representatives of the thousands of Christians tortured and martyred in Vietnam between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries: bishops, presbyters, religious, and lay people, both children and adults.

OPENING
PRAYER

God our Father,
in whom every family has its source,
you kept the holy martyrs Andrew Dung-Lac
and his companions
faithful to the cross of your Son,
even to the shedding of their blood.
Grant through their prayers
that by spreading your love among others
we may prove ourselves your children,
not only in name but in truth.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Father most holy,
receive the gifts we bring
as we honour the sufferings of the Vietnamese martyrs.
Keep us faithful to you amid the trials of this world
and accept our lives
as an offering that is pleasing in your sight.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

On this feast of the holy martyrs,
we beg you, Lord God,
that, nourished by one bread,
we may remain one in your love,
and through patient endurance gain an eternal reward.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

30 NOVEMBER **ANDREW, APOSTLE**
FEAST

Born at Bethsaida (Galilee), Andrew was a fisherman and perhaps a disciple of John the Baptist (24 June). He introduced his brother, Simon Peter (29 June), to Jesus and became one of the first to follow Christ. He is mentioned a number of times in the gospels, for example, in introducing some Gentiles to Jesus (John 12:20ff.). Widely venerated since ancient times, he is remembered as one of the twelve who bore witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

OPENING
PRAYER

God of majesty,
you called the blessed apostle Andrew
to preach the gospel and guide your Church.
Hear our devoted prayers,
and grant that your people may always know
the power of his intercession.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Grant, almighty God,
that the gifts we present
on the feast of Saint Andrew
may be pleasing to you
and become for us the source of life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Apostles I or II, pages 632-634.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
let our sharing in this sacrament renew our strength,
that like the holy apostle Andrew
we may carry in our bodies the dying of Christ
and live with him for ever in glory.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DECEMBER

3 DECEMBER FRANCIS XAVIER, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY MEMORIAL

Born in 1506 in Navarre (Spain), Francis died on this day in 1552 off the coast of China. While studying in Paris, he met Saint Ignatius of Loyola (31 July), became one of the first Jesuits, and went to Goa (India) as a missionary. From there he travelled extensively through southeast Asia to Japan, winning many converts and leaving behind organised Christian communities. He is remembered for the witness of his poverty and for his tireless efforts as a missionary.

Common of Pastors: missionaries, page 458; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
by the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier
you won many peoples to yourself.
Inspire in the hearts of believers a zeal like his,
that the Church may everywhere rejoice in abundant offspring.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
receive the gifts we bring on the feast of Saint Francis.
As his longing for the salvation of souls
led him to distant lands,
grant that we too may witness boldly to the gospel
and hasten to meet you with a multitude of brothers and sisters.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,
let your holy mysteries enkindle in us
the same eagerness for the salvation of souls
which inflamed Saint Francis,
that we may lead a life more worthy of our calling
and receive with him the reward
promised to those who labour in your vineyard.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

4 DECEMBER **JOHN OF DAMASCUS**, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS,

DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

John was born about 675 in Damascus (Syria) and died near Jerusalem about 749. A Christian official in a Moslem government, he became a monk and later presbyter at Mar Saba monastery near Jerusalem, where he was renowned as a theologian and biblical commentator. He is remembered for his vigorous defence of the veneration of images against the iconoclasts, for his theological writings synthesising the thought of the Greek Fathers, and for his poetry and hymnody.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord,
through the intercession of the holy priest
John of Damascus,
grant that the true faith,
of which he was so eminent a teacher,
may always be our light and our strength.

We ask this 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.

6 DECEMBER **NICHOLAS**, BISHOP

Bishop of Myra (Turkey), Nicholas died in the fourth century. Nothing more is known about his life. Since the tenth century, he has been widely venerated and frequently claimed as a patron in both East and West. His cult in the West was further ensured when his relics were moved from Myra to Bari (Italy) in the eleventh century. Nicholas's reputation for generosity led to the custom of giving children gifts on his feast day, and thus to the Christmas figure of Santa Claus.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING
PRAYER

Turn to us, Lord, in your mercy,
and, through the intercession of the bishop Saint Nicholas,
watch over us in every danger,
that the way of salvation may lie open before us.

We make our prayer 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.

7 DECEMBER **AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**
MEMORIAL

Born in Trier (Germany) about 340, Ambrose was ordained bishop on this day in 374 and died at Milan (Italy) on Holy Saturday 397. A lawyer, he became governor in Milan and was still a catechumen when elected bishop by popular acclaim. He upheld orthodoxy against the Arians and won many Christian converts. He encouraged monasticism and defended the independence of the Church against secular authority. Ambrose is remembered as an outstanding pastor through his writings on the sacraments and Christian ethics and through his homilies, instructions, and hymns.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you made the holy bishop Ambrose
a teacher of the Catholic faith
and a model of apostolic courage;
raise up in our midst
bishops after your own heart
to guide your Church with wisdom and with strength.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

As we celebrate these sacred mysteries,
grant, O Lord, that the Holy Spirit may fill our hearts
with the same light of faith
which inspired blessed Ambrose
to make your glory known to the nations.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
you have renewed our strength through this sacrament;
grant that we may profit
from the teaching and example of Saint Ambrose,
so that by walking resolutely in your ways
we may be ready to delight in your eternal banquet.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

8 DECEMBER THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
SOLEMNITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY

This feast had its origin in the East as the "Conception of Mary by Saint Anne." It spread through the West during the Middle Ages as the "Immaculate Conception" and was extended to the entire Western Church in the eighteenth century. The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the firstfruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

OPENING
PRAYER

Lord our God,
through the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary
you prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son.
As you preserved her from all taint of sin
by the salvation his death would bring,
so, through her intercession, cleanse us from our faults
and lead us safely into your presence.

We ask this 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.

ALTERNATIVE
OPENING
PRAYER

God most high,
from the first moment of her conception
you favoured the Virgin Mary with your grace,
that she might become the mother of the world's Redeemer.

As you blessed the daughter of Israel,
so grant us the grace
to be fully engaged in your service,
eager to do your will.
Hasten that day of gladness
when you will bring to completion your saving work,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

In your goodness, Lord,
receive the sacrifice of salvation
which we offer on the feast of the immaculate conception.
We profess in faith
that your grace preserved the Virgin Mary
from every stain of sin;
through her intercession deliver us from all our faults.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, page 618.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord our God,
let the sacrament we have received
heal in us the wounds of that sin
from which you preserved the Virgin Mary
through the singular grace of her immaculate conception.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

11 DECEMBER DAMASUS I, POPE

Born in Rome about 305, Damasus, the son of a presbyter, died there on this day in 384. Elected bishop of Rome amid violent rivalry, he was active in opposing fourth century heresies. After Christianity became the official religion of the Roman state and Latin was becoming the principal liturgical language, he commissioned Saint Jerome (30 September) to prepare a new Latin translation of the Bible. He is also remembered for promoting the cult of the Roman martyrs, inscribing their tombs with epitaphs in verse.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a pope), page 450.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
grant that we may always celebrate with devotion
the virtues of your martyrs,
whom Pope Saint Damasus honoured and loved so well.

We make our prayer 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.

12 DECEMBER JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL, MARRIED WOMAN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Jane was born in Dijon (France) in 1572 and died at Moulins on 13 December 1641. She married Baron Christophe de Chantal at the age of twenty, but after nine years she was left a widow with four children. Her friendship with Saint Francis de Sales (24 January) led to the establishment of the Congregation of the Visitation, which offered an alternative form of religious life for women, less severe in its ascetic discipline. She is remembered for her administrative ability and for her visits to the sick and poor.

Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
your grace shone brightly in Jane Frances de Chantal
as wife and mother and as religious founder.
Help each of us through her prayers
to follow our calling faithfully
and to reflect in our lives the light of Christ.

We ask this 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.

13 DECEMBER **LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR**
MEMORIAL

Lucy died at Syracuse in Sicily, probably in the persecution of the emperor Diocletian in 304. Widely venerated from the earliest times, her memorial has long been kept on this day. Probably because her name is suggestive of light, her intercession has been sought for eyesight problems. Lucy is named in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon) and is remembered as a youth, radiant with Christian faith and courage.

Common of Martyrs: virgin martyr, page 448; or Common of Other Saints: virgins, page 463.

OPENING
PRAYER

Enlighten your Church, O Lord,
through the intercession of the virgin martyr Lucy,
that we who celebrate the festival of her birth into heaven
may one day behold with her the vision of your glory.

We ask this 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.

14 DECEMBER **JOHN OF THE CROSS**, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS,
MEMORIAL DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Born in 1542 at Fontiveros (Spain), John died on this day in Ubeda. A Carmelite presbyter, he joined Saint Teresa of Jesus (15 October) in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the discalced Carmelites. He is remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you inspired the holy priest John
with fervent self-denial and a singular love of the cross;
grant that, faithful to his teaching and example,
we may reach the everlasting vision of your glory.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Almighty God,
look kindly on the sacrifice we offer
on this feast of Saint John of the Cross,
and grant that we may conform our lives
to the mystery of the Lord's passion,
which we celebrate in this sacrament.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

O God,
in the life of blessed John
you revealed the mystery of the cross;
grant that by the power of this sacrifice
we may hold fast to Christ your Son
and labour in his Church for the salvation of all.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

21 DECEMBER **PETER CANISIUS, PRESBYTER, RELIGIOUS,**

DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Peter was born at Nijmegen (Netherlands) in 1521 and died in Fribourg (Switzerland) on this day in 1597. He was a Jesuit presbyter who spent his time writing and teaching in universities and colleges. Together with his easily understood preaching and the writing of his famous catechisms, his academic life enabled him to restore and strengthen Catholic belief in response to the Reformation. He is remembered for his courtesy in debate and for his use of the press in promoting the Catholic revival after the Council of Trent.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Doctors of the Church, page 461; or Common of Other Saints: religious, page 468.

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
for the defence of the Catholic faith
you endowed your priest Peter Canisius
with courage and learning.

Through his intercession
grant to those who seek the truth
the joy of finding you, the one true God,
and to those who confess your name
the grace of persevering in the faith.

We ask this 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.

23 DECEMBER **JOHN OF KANTY, PRESBYTER**

Born at Kanty (Poland) in 1390, John died at Cracow on 24 December 1473. Ordained a presbyter, he taught philosophy, theology, and Scripture at the university in Cracow. John urged his students to moderation in controversy. He is remembered for his excellent teaching, for the austerity of his personal life, and for the generosity of his almsgiving.

Common of Pastors: other pastors, page 454; or Common of Other Saints: those who carried out works of mercy, page 466.

OPENING
PRAYER

Grant, almighty God,
that like Saint John of Kanty
we may advance in the knowledge of holy things
and, by showing compassion toward all,
obtain pardon for our sins.

We make our prayer 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.

29 DECEMBER THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR

Born in London (England) in 1118, Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered in his cathedral on this day in 1170. A deacon when he was appointed chancellor of England, he became a close friend of Henry II. His ordination as bishop brought an abrupt conversion of life and led him to oppose the king over Church rights. After six years' refuge in a French monastery he returned to his diocese, but careless words from the king inspired four knights to assassinate him. Immediately acknowledged as a martyr, he is remembered for the courage of his Christian convictions.

Common of Martyrs: one martyr, page 445; or Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a bishop), page 450.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you gave the holy martyr Thomas Becket
strength to lay down his life with great courage,
for the sake of justice.

Enable us through his intercession
to lose our life for Christ in this world,
that we may find our life in heaven.

We ask this 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.

31 DECEMBER SYLVESTER I, POPE

Sylvester, elected bishop of Rome in 314, died there on this day in 335. He is remembered as the bishop of Rome in the important years when the Christian Church was first tolerated and then legally recognised in the Roman empire. It was during this time that the emperor Constantine called councils at Arles and Nicaea to combat heresy and that great basilicas were built in Rome and throughout the empire.

Common of Pastors: popes and other bishops (for a pope), page 450.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
come to the aid of your people,
who rely on the prayers of Pope Saint Sylvester;
guide us through the days of this passing life
and lead us to the life that knows no end.

We ask this 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.



THE COMMON OF SAINTS

*Let peoples declare the wisdom of the saints
and let the Church proclaim their praises;
their names shall never be forgotten*

SEE SIRACH 44:15, 14

THE COMMON OF SAINTS

DEDICATION OF A CHURCH, PAGE 430

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- Season of Advent, page 431
- Season of Christmas, page 432
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MARTYRS

- Several Martyrs outside the season of Easter, page 438
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PASTORS

- Popes and other Bishops, page 450
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OTHER SAINTS

- Virgins, page 463
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THE COMMON OF SAINTS

1 The following Mass texts may be used in celebrating the memorial of saints that do not have a proper Mass formulary. Texts should be chosen that best correspond to the life and death of the particular saint.

In this edition, corresponding prayers from the same common have been grouped together to facilitate choosing the most appropriate text.

In addition, for Masses of memorials, the prayer over the gifts and the prayer after communion may be taken from the weekdays of the current liturgical season as well as from the commons.

2 In the common of martyrs and in the common of other saints, other holy men and women, all the prayers may be used of men or women with the necessary change of gender.

3 In the individual commons, texts in the singular may be changed to the plural and vice versa.

4 Certain Masses which are given for specific seasons and circumstances should be used for those seasons and circumstances.

5 During the season of Easter an **alleluia** should be added at the end of the opening and communion antiphons.

6 On solemnities and feasts, one of the optional antiphons may be used, as found in the Antiphonal, page 1243.

DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

The Mass texts for the anniversary of the dedication of church are found in Ritual Masses, “Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church,” page 1036.

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The following Mass texts may also be used for Votive Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary and for the optional memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturdays.

SEASON OF ADVENT

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you willed that at the greeting of an angel
your Word take flesh
in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary;
grant that we who proclaim her to be truly the Mother of God
may enjoy the help of her intercession.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
may the power of the Spirit,
which came upon Mary and made her womb fruitful,
sanctify the gifts we have placed on this altar.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary I-II, pages 624-626, or Preface of Advent II, page 518.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord our God,
let the sacrament we have received
always reveal in our lives the power of your mercy,
that we who commemorate in faith the Mother of your Son
may be saved by his incarnation.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
through the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary
you offered to the human race
the treasures of eternal salvation.
Let us experience the power of her prayers,
for through her we have received the author of life, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Accept our offerings, O Lord,
and make us radiant with the light of the Holy Spirit,
so that, following the blessed Virgin Mary,
we may seek out the things that are yours
and treasure them in our hearts.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary I-II, pages 624-626.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

We have been restored, Lord God,
by the body and blood of your Word made flesh;
grant that the divine mysteries we have received
on this feast of the blessed Virgin Mary
may enable us to share for ever
in the divinity of your Son.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SEASON OF EASTER

OPENING
PRAYER

- 1 O God,
through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
you have brought joy to the world;
grant through the prayers of his Mother, the Virgin Mary,
that we may possess the joys of eternal life.

We ask this 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.

- 2 God of majesty,
you sent the Holy Spirit upon your apostles
as they were joined in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus;
grant through her intercession
that we may serve you faithfully
and, by word and example,
spread the glory of your name throughout the world.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
as we keep the memory of the blessed Virgin Mary
we offer you our gifts,
praying that Christ,
who offered himself to you without blemish on the cross,
may by his humanity bring us strength and healing.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary I-II, pages 624-626.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
we profess as truly God and truly human
the child conceived by the Virgin Mary.
Seal in our hearts the mysteries of true faith,
and through the saving power of the resurrection
guide us to eternal happiness.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

ORDINARY TIME

Additional Mass texts for the optional memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturdays in Ordinary Time are given in the Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

OPENING
PRAYER

- 1 Your mercy, O God, extends from age to age,
and your mighty arm exalts the lowly.

As we ponder the marvels of your grace
in the blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of your Son,
grant that we may receive your word
in obedient faith
and magnify your name
in holiness of life.

We ask this 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.

- 2 O Lord our God,
grant us, your servants,
unfailing health of mind and body,
and through the glorious intercession of blessed Mary ever virgin
free us from present sorrow
and lead us to the joy of the world to come.

We ask this 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.

- 3 Lord,
forgive the sins of your servants,
that we who cannot please you by our efforts alone
may be saved through the intercession
of the Mother of your Son.

We ask this 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.

- 4 God of compassion,
protect us in our weakness,
and grant that we who keep the memory
of the immaculate Mother of God
may rise from our sins through her intercession.

We ask this 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.

5 Lord God,
let the gracious prayer of the glorious Virgin Mary
come to our aid
and free us from every danger,
that we may dwell with joy in your peace.

We ask this 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.

6 Grant, O Lord,
that we who honour the glorious memory
of the blessed Virgin Mary
may through her intercession
come to share in the fullness of your grace.

We ask this 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.

7 Lord Jesus,
you were pleased to choose as your dwelling place
the chaste womb of the blessed Virgin Mary;
grant that we who find shelter under her protection
may rejoice to keep this festival in her honour.

You live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

8 Almighty God,
grant that your faithful people,
who enjoy the protection of the most holy Virgin Mary,
may by her motherly intercession
be freed from all evils here on earth
and be welcomed into the lasting joy of heaven.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

1 Lord,
let the humanity of your only-begotten Son
come to our aid.
As the birth of Christ from the Virgin Mother
did not diminish but rather consecrated her virginity,
so may he take away our sins
and make our offering acceptable to you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

2 Lord,
as we honour Mary, the Mother of your Son,
we pray that the offering of this sacrifice
may by your abundant grace
make us an everlasting gift to you.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

3 O Lord,
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
as we joyfully honour the Mother of your Son;
grant that through this holy exchange of gifts
we may advance toward eternal salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 Look with favour, Lord,
on the prayers and gifts of your faithful
as we keep this feast in honour of Mary,
the blessed Mother of God;
grant that our offering may be pleasing to you
and become for us the source
of your help and forgiveness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary I-II, pages 624-626.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

1 Fed by this holy sacrament, Lord God,
we implore your mercy,
that we who rejoice in honouring the blessed Virgin Mary
may follow her example
and serve you worthily in the mystery of our redemption.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

2 O God,
you have given us a share in eternal redemption.
On this feast of the Mother of your Son
let us rejoice in the fullness of your grace
and in the constant growth within us
of your saving power.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

3 Lord God,
having received this heavenly sacrament,
we humbly pray
that we who revere the memory of the blessed Virgin Mary
may share with her in the eternal banquet.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 Renewed by the sacrament of salvation, Lord,
we humbly ask
that we who have honoured the blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God,
may always experience in our lives
the blessings of your redemption.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MARTYRS

SEVERAL MARTYRS OUTSIDE THE SEASON OF EASTER

OPENING
PRAYER

- 1 Grant us, O Lord, a gracious answer to our prayers,
that we who celebrate each year
the martyrdom of Saints N. and N.
may also imitate their steadfast faith.

We ask this 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.

- 2 Almighty and eternal God,
you gave your holy martyrs N. and N.
the grace of suffering for Christ;
stretch forth your hand to help us in our weakness,
that, as they did not hesitate to die for your sake,
we may live for you and confess your name with boldness.

We ask this 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.

- 3 Lord,
may the victorious crown shared by your martyrs
fill us with gladness;
may their triumph strengthen our faith
and their prayers bring comfort in our needs.

Grant this 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.

4 Lord,
may the prayers of your blessed martyrs N. and N.
gain us your favour
and give us strength to profess your truth.

We ask this 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.

5 O God,
each year you gladden our hearts
with the festival of Saints N. and N.;
grant that we who honour their birth into glory
may imitate their courage in suffering.

We ask this 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.

6 By the generous gift of your grace, O God,
you brought Saints N. and N. to the glory of martyrdom;
through their merits and prayers
grant us pardon for our sins
and deliverance from all adversity.

We ask this 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.

7 Merciful Lord,
increase in us the gift of faith,
by which your martyrs N. and N.,
standing firm unto death, were brought to glory.
Grant that we too may live by faith
and by faith be justified.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

- 1 Father of holiness,
accept the gifts we bring before you
on this memorial of the holy martyrs,
and grant that we, your servants,
may also persevere in confessing your name.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

- 2 Lord God,
let the sacrifice to be offered
in celebration of the precious martyrdom of N. and N.
find favour in your sight;
may it cleanse us from sin
and make our prayers acceptable to you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

- 3 Accept, O Lord, the gifts your people offer
as we celebrate the martyrdom of N. and N.,
and let the eucharist which gave them courage in persecution
make us steadfast in adversity.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 4 O Lord,
on this feast of Saints N. and N.
we bring you these offerings,
imploing that, as you gave your holy martyrs a radiant faith,
you may bless us with gifts of pardon and peace.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

- 5 Lord God,
look with favour on the sacrifice we offer,
that the passion of your Son
which we celebrate in these mysteries
may become the pattern of our lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

- 6 Let the sacrifice we offer, Lord,
on this feast of Saints N. and N.
inflame our hearts with your love
and prepare us for the reward
promised to those who persevere to the end.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

1 O God,
in the death of your holy martyrs
the mystery of the cross shines forth;
grant that by the power of this sacrifice
we too may hold fast to Christ, your Son,
and labour in his Church for the salvation of all.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Lord God,
we have been nourished by bread from heaven
and made one body in Christ;
grant that we may never be parted from his love
and, like your holy martyrs N. and N.,
may conquer every adversity
for the sake of him who loved us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 Lord God,
preserve within us the gift you have bestowed
on this feast of the martyrs N. and N.;
let it bring us your healing grace and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 Lord God,
through this holy sacrament
grant us the riches of your grace
on this feast of the blessed martyrs N. and N.,
that we may learn from their ordeal
to remain staunch in adversity
and to exult with them in final victory.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

5 Nourished, Lord God, by the body and blood of your only Son,
we pray on the feast of your martyrs N. and N.
that with an unwavering love
we may abide in you,
receive life from you,
and be drawn ever closer to you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

SEVERAL MARTYRS DURING THE SEASON OF EASTER

OPENING
PRAYER

1 Almighty God,
you enabled Saints N. and N.
to lay down their lives in fidelity to your word
and in witness to Christ, your Son.
Transform us by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that we too may be prompt in believing
and strong in confessing Jesus the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

2 Lord God,
from you faith receives assurance
and weakness gathers strength.
By the example and prayers of N. and N.
grant us a share in your Son's death and resurrection,
that with your martyrs we may attain
the perfect joy of your presence.

We ask this 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.

3 Fill us with gladness, Lord,
on this feast of your martyrs N. and N.,
for you gave them the grace to confess boldly
the passion and resurrection of your only Son
and to shed their blood by a glorious death.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

1 Lord,
the death of your just ones N. and N.
is precious in your sight;
we offer you the sacrifice
in which all martyrdom finds its source and meaning.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

2 Lord,
look graciously on the gifts we present
and sanctify them by the blessing of the Holy Spirit,
that they may kindle in our hearts the ardent love
which enabled Saints N. and N.
to overcome the torments of a martyr's death.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

1 Lord God,
at this sacred banquet we have celebrated
the glorious victory of the martyrs N. and N.;
grant that by eating the bread of life here on earth
we too may be victorious
and eat of the tree of life in paradise.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Renewed by the one bread of heaven
on the feast of the holy martyrs N. and N.,
we humbly ask you, O God,
to keep us ever strong in your love
and make us walk in newness of life.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MISSIONARY MARTYRS

OPENING
PRAYER

Almighty and compassionate God,
we implore your sovereign mercy:
by the preaching of the martyrs N. and N.
you planted the seeds of Christ's gospel
in the hearts of those who did not know him;
through the intercession of the martyrs
strengthen your people in steadfast faith.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Grant, O Lord,
that we who celebrate the martyrdom of Saints N. and N.
may worthily proclaim in this sacrifice
the death of your Son,
who not only encouraged the martyrs by his word
but strengthened them by his example.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
you have delighted us with food from heaven:
grant, we humbly pray,
that, inspired by the example of Saints N. and N.,
we may bear in our hearts
the likeness of Christ's love and suffering
and come to enjoy the gift of lasting peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ONE MARTYR
OUTSIDE THE SEASON OF EASTER

OPENING
PRAYER

- 1 God of power and mercy,
you enabled your martyr N.
to overcome suffering and death;
grant that under your protection
all who celebrate the day of his/her victory
may prevail against the deceits of the enemy.

We ask this 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.

- 2 Almighty and eternal God,
you blessed Saint N. with the grace
to strive for justice even unto death.
Give us the strength through his/her intercession
to bear every hardship for your love
and to seek you with all our might,
for in you alone do we find life.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

- 1 Lord,
sanctify with your blessing the gifts we present,
and by your grace kindle in our hearts
that flame of love which enabled Saint N.
to triumph over torment and death.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 2 Accept the gifts we bring, O Lord,
on this feast of your martyr N.;
as the shedding of his/her blood was precious in your sight,
so may our offering be pleasing to your glory.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

3 God of all mercy,
pour forth your blessing upon these gifts,
and strengthen us in that faith
which Saint N. proclaimed by the shedding of his/her blood.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 Accept, O Lord,
these gifts we present in memory of Saint N.,
whom no trial could separate
from the unity of your body, the Church.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

1 Lord God,
let the sacred mysteries we have received
imbue us with that same strength of spirit
which made your holy martyr N.
faithful in your service and victorious in suffering.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Renewed by these sacred mysteries, Lord God,
we pray that we may imitate
the wonderful faithfulness of Saint N.
and so receive the reward
promised to those who persevere to the end.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

ONE MARTYR
DURING THE SEASON OF EASTER

OPENING
PRAYER

To adorn your Church, O God,
you were pleased to bless Saint N.
with the victorious crown of martyrdom;
grant that just as he/she imitated the passion of Christ
we may follow that same path
and so come to the unending joys of heaven.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
on this feast of the blessed martyr N.
accept the sacrifice of reconciliation and praise
which we offer to your divine majesty,
that it may bring us pardon for sin
and confirm us in unfailing gratitude.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
on this joyful feast
we have received your heavenly gifts;
grant that we who in this sacred banquet
proclaim the death of your Son
may with all the holy martyrs
share in his resurrection and glory.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

VIRGIN MARTYR

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
each year you fill our hearts with joy
as we celebrate the martyrdom of Saint N.;
grant that she may help us by her merits,
just as she inspires us by her chastity and courage.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
grant that the gifts we bring to this altar
on the feast of your martyr Saint N.
may, like the offering of her life,
find favour in your sight.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

O God,
for her virginity and her martyrdom
you rewarded blessed N. with a victor's crown
and counted her among the saints;
grant us through the power of this sacrament
the strength to triumph over evil
and to attain the glory of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

HOLY WOMAN MARTYR

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
by your gift strength is made perfect in weakness;
grant to us who celebrate the triumph of Saint N.
that she who received from you the strength to prevail
may always gain for us the grace of victory.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Lord,
as we commemorate the victory of Saint N.,
we joyfully offer this sacrifice
by which we acclaim your wonderful deeds
and delight in her glorious intercession.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Lord God,
as we receive this sacrament
and keep the memory of Saint N.,
you give us a foretaste of heaven;
grant, we implore you, that the mysteries we dutifully celebrate
may by your grace renew our hearts and minds.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PASTORS

POPES AND OTHER BISHOPS

OPENING
PRAYER

1 For a pope

All-powerful and ever-living God,
you chose blessed N.
to preside over all your people
and to serve them by word and example;
through his intercession
watch over the pastors of your Church,
together with the flocks entrusted to their care,
and guide them on the path of eternal salvation.

We ask this 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.

2 For a pope

O God,
you chose Saint N. as shepherd of the whole Church
and made him renowned for virtue and teaching.
Grant to us who revere this holy bishop
that the light of our good works
may shine before others
and the flame of our love
burn brightly before you.

We ask this 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.

3 For a bishop

O God,
in your holy bishop N.
you have blessed your Church
with the example of a good shepherd;
grant through his intercession
that we may be led to the pastures of everlasting life.

We ask this 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.

4 For a bishop

All-powerful God,
you chose the holy bishop N.
to preside over your people in love
and to serve them by word and example;
grant that we may fittingly honour his memory
and always experience the help of his prayers.

We ask this 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.

5 For a bishop

All-powerful and ever-living God,
you chose blessed N., your bishop,
to preside over your holy people;
We ask that through his merits
we may receive in full measure the gift of your love.

Grant this 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.

6 For a bishop

O God,
among the ranks of holy bishops
you have numbered blessed N.,
who was inflamed with love for you
and was filled with the faith that overcomes the world.
Through his intercession
grant that we too may be steadfast in faith and love,
and one day take our place with him in glory.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

1 Lord,
in memory of your saints
we offer you the sacrifice of praise
on which we rest our hope for deliverance from all evils,
present and yet to come.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Lord,
by this sacrifice you have taken away the sins of the world.
As we offer it on the feast of Saint N.,
may it bring us closer to our salvation.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 Lord,
on this feast of Saint N.
look kindly on the offerings
we place upon your sacred altar,
that this sacrifice, by winning us pardon,
may glorify your holy name.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

4 Lord,
graciously accept the gifts we present
on this feast of Saint N.,
that through them we may experience
the loving support for which we hope.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

1 Lord our God,
let the sacraments we have received
stir up in us the fire of that love
which inflamed the heart of Saint N.
to work tirelessly for the sake of the Church.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Lord God,
let the power of the sacrament we have received
on this feast of Saint N.
take full effect within us:
may it sustain us in our earthly life
and obtain for us the joy of life everlasting.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

3 Lord God,
renewed by these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray
that the example of Saint N. may inspire us
to profess what he believed
and to practice what he taught.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 Nourished by the sacred body and blood of your Son,
we pray, Lord God,
that the mystery we devoutly celebrate
may bring us to the fullness of redemption.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

OTHER PASTORS

OPENING
PRAYER

- 1 O God,
light of the faithful and shepherd of souls,
you raised up Saint N. [a bishop] in the Church
to feed your flock with his words
and to teach them by his actions;
grant through his intercession
that we may keep the faith he taught
and follow the path he showed us by his example.

We ask this 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.

- 2 O God,
you filled blessed N. and N. [your bishops]
with a spirit of truth and love
to feed and comfort your people.
Grant that we who celebrate this feast
may profit from their example
and be lifted up by their prayers.

We ask this 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.

- 3 Almighty God,
we humbly entreat you:
through the prayers of your Saints N. and N.
increase your gifts within us
and govern the course of our days in your peace.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

- 1 Sovereign God,
We make this humble prayer:
as these gifts offered in honour of the saints
proclaim your glorious power,
so may they impart to us
the grace of your salvation.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Accept, O Lord, the sacrifice of your people,
that the offering We make to your glory
as we honour Saints N. and N.
may lead to our eternal salvation.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

3 Take to yourself, O Lord,
the gifts we place on this altar
in honour of Saints N. and N.,
that the holy mysteries which brought them glory
may bring us the gift of your pardon.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

1 Lord God,
let the mysteries which we have received
prepare us for the eternal joys
that Saint N. gained by his faithful stewardship.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 All-powerful God,
we have been nourished by this holy meal;
grant us the strength to imitate Saint N.,
that we may worship you with enduring devotion
and work for the good of all with tireless love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 Lord God,
we have partaken of the heavenly sacrament
on this feast of blessed N. and N.;
grant that we may enjoy in the bliss of heaven
the mystery we now celebrate on earth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 All-powerful God,
let the heavenly banquet we have shared
on this feast of blessed N. and N.
strengthen and increase in us the power of grace,
that we may keep intact the gift of faith
and follow them on the path to salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FOUNDERS OF CHURCHES

OPENING
PRAYER

- 1 All-powerful and merciful God,
through the preaching of Saint N.
you brought the light of faith to our ancestors;
grant that we who glory in the name of Christian
may show forth in our deeds the faith we profess.

We ask this 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.

- 2 Lord,
look with favour upon the family
which Saint N. [your bishop] brought to birth by the word of truth
and nourished with the sacrament of life.
By his ministry you gave us faith;
through his prayers make us ardent in charity.

We ask this 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.

- 3 Lord,
look with favour on the Church of N.,
which you brought to the faith
through the apostolic zeal of Saints N. and N.;
in response to their prayers,
sustain your people in Christian holiness.

We ask this 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.

- 4 Lord God,
through the preaching of Saint N. [your bishop]
you called our ancestors out of darkness
into the wonderful light of the gospel;
grant through his intercession
that we may grow in the grace and knowledge
of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

- 1 Almighty God,
accept the gifts your people offer
in memory of Saint N.,
and in your mercy join them with the gifts of heaven.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

- 2 Accept, O Lord, the gifts of your Church
on this feast of Saints N. and N.,
and in your goodness make us a people
whose upright hearts are pleasing to you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

- 1 Grant, Lord God,
that the pledge of eternal redemption
we have received with joy on the feast of Saint N.
may be our help and support
now and for the life to come.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 2 Lord God,
may the saving power we have received at your altar
on this feast of Saints N. and N.
gladden our hearts.
Anxious for your blessings,
we honour today the beginnings of our faith
and proclaim you wonderful in your saints.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

MISSIONARIES

OPENING
PRAYER

- 1 O God,
through the preaching of Saint N. [your bishop]
you called a people without Christian faith
from darkness to the light of truth;
through his prayers strengthen our faith
and keep us constant in that hope
which is founded on the gospel he preached.

Grant this 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.

- 2 All-powerful and ever-living God,
by receiving Saint N. into glory
you have brought joy to this holy day;
grant that we may hold fast to the faith
he so tirelessly preached
and carry it out in our daily lives.

We ask this 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.

- 3 O God,
you brought growth to your Church
through the Christian zeal and apostolic labours of Saint N.;
by the help of his prayers
may your people flourish always in faith and holiness.

Grant this 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.

- 4 By your infinite mercy, O God,
Saint N. preached the unsearchable riches of Christ;
grant that with the help of his prayers
we may grow in knowledge of you,
bear fruit in every good work,
and walk before you faithfully
according to the truth of the gospel.

We ask this 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.

5 For martyrs

God of power and might,
grant that we may hold fast devotedly
to the faith of blessed N. and N.,
who won the crown of martyrdom
in the spreading of the gospel.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

1 All-powerful God,
look with favour on the sacrifice we offer
on this feast of Saint N.;
grant that we who celebrate the mystery of the Lord's passion
may imitate it in our lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

2 Mercifully hear our prayers, O Lord,
and free us from all fault:
let your grace cleanse us from sin
through the very mysteries by which we offer you true worship.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 As we honour the memory of Saint N.
We ask you, Lord,
to send down your blessing on the gifts we present,
that by sharing in this food
we may be freed of all sin
and filled with heavenly delights.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

- 1 Through the power of this sacrament, Lord God,
strengthen your servants in the true faith,
that everywhere we may profess in word and deed
the truth for which Saint N.
so generously spent his life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 2 Lord our God,
let the sacrament we have received
nourish us in the faith
which the apostles proclaimed by their preaching
and which Saint N. watched over with care.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 3 Grant, Lord God,
that the holy things we have received
may give us life,
so that we who keep the feast of Saint N.
may profit by his powerful example
in spreading the gospel.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

OPENING
PRAYER

- 1 All-powerful and ever-living God,
you have given the Church Saint N. [your bishop]
as teacher of the faith and advocate before the throne of grace;
grant that what he/she taught at the Spirit's prompting
may take root in our hearts
and that his/her prayers may bring us your merciful protection.

We ask this 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.

- 2 Lord God,
you endowed Saint N. with wisdom from heaven;
grant through his/her intercession
that we may hold fast to his/her teaching
and profess it in our lives.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

- 1 Be pleased, O God, with the sacrifice
we so gladly offer on this feast of N.
Faithful to his/her teaching,
we give ourselves and our song of praise entirely to you.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

- 2 As we celebrate these sacred mysteries,
grant, O Lord, that the Holy Spirit may fill our hearts
with the same light of faith
which inspired blessed N.
to make your glory known to the nations.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

1 Lord God,
you nourish us with Christ, the living bread;
let Christ also be our teacher,
that on this feast of blessed N.
we may firmly grasp your truth
and express it in works of charity.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

2 Lord God,
hear the earnest prayer
of those you have nourished with food from heaven,
that, mindful of the teaching of Saint N.,
we may remain ever thankful
for the gifts we have received.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

OTHER SAINTS

VIRGINS

OPENING
PRAYER

- 1 O God, our strength and our salvation,
hear our prayers on this joyous feast of the holy virgin N.,
that we may learn from her example of faithfulness and love.

Grant this 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.

- 2 Lord God,
you richly blessed the holy virgin N. with heavenly gifts;
inspire us to emulate her virtues in this life,
that we may possess with her the joys of life eternal.

Grant this 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.

- 3 For a foundress

Lord God,
grant that the holy virgin N.,
a faithful bride of Christ,
may kindle in our hearts the flame of divine love
which she inspired in her sisters,
to the everlasting glory of your Church.

We ask this 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.

- 4 O God,
you promise to remain in hearts that are pure;
hear the prayers of the holy virgin N.
and, by the gift of your grace,
make our lives worthy of your abiding presence.

We ask this 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.

5 Hear our prayers, Lord,
as we honour the virtue of the holy virgin N.,
so that we may abide in your love
and draw closer to you each day of our lives.

We ask this 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.

6 Lavish your mercy upon us, O Lord,
as we devoutly rejoice on the feast
of the holy virgins N. and N.,
that by your grace
we may enjoy their company for ever.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

1 Lord,
on this feast of Saint N.
we proclaim your glory in your saints,
and we humbly ask
that as her virtues were pleasing to you,
so our reverent worship may find favour in your sight.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Lord,
may this offering we dedicate to you
bear fruit in our lives,
that, following the example of blessed N.,
we may cast aside our old ways of sin
and be renewed by the growth of your life within us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 Accept, O Lord, our humble service
on the feast of the holy virgin N.,
and through this perfect sacrifice
inflame our hearts
with a holy and devoted love for you.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

4 Lord,
on this feast of the holy virgins N. and N.
we offer you our gifts and praise,
proclaiming that you are wonderful in your saints;
as their lives were pleasing to you,
so may our reverent service find favour in your sight.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

1 Renewed by our sharing in your divine gift,
we beg you, Lord our God,
that like Saint N.
we may carry in our bodies the dying of Jesus
and strive to hold fast to you alone.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Lord God,
by our sharing in the body and blood of your Son
free our hearts from unnecessary cares,
so that like Saint N.
we may grow in undivided love for you on earth
and rejoice one day in the vision of your glory.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 Refreshed by bread from heaven,
we ask your mercy, Lord God,
that we who joyfully remember Saint N.
may obtain pardon for our sins,
health for our bodies,
and grace and eternal glory for our souls.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

4 Lord God,
on this feast of your virgins N. and N.
we pray that the sacrament we have received
may always inspire and enlighten us,
that we may prepare worthily for the coming of your Son
and be welcomed to his marriage feast in heaven,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT WORKS OF MERCY

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you have taught your Church
that to love you and to love our neighbour
is to fulfil the whole of your law;
grant that by imitating Saint N. in working for others
we may be numbered among the blessed in your kingdom.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Receive, O Lord, the gifts of your people
and grant that we
who recall Christ's work of surpassing love
may, like your saints, grow ever stronger
in love of you and of our neighbour.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

- 1 Made new by these sacred mysteries, Lord God,
we pray that we may follow the example of Saint N.,
who served you with tireless devotion
and ministered to your people with boundless love.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 2 Lord God,
we have shared the delights of your saving sacrament
and we humbly seek your mercy,
that we may imitate the love shown by Saint N.
and become his/her companions in glory.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EDUCATORS

OPENING
PRAYER

O God,
you raised up Saint N. in your Church
to show others the way of salvation;
grant that like him/her we may follow Christ, our teacher,
and, with all our brothers and sisters,
may come at last to your presence.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

Be pleased, O Lord,
with the offering of your holy people
on this feast of the saints,
and grant that by sharing in this mystery
we may imitate the love you have shown to us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

Almighty God,
let this sacred meal be a source of strength,
that like the saints
we may show forth in our hearts and actions
the light of truth and a love for our brothers and sisters.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

RELIGIOUS

OPENING
PRAYER

1 By your grace, O God,
Saint N. persevered in following the poor and humble Christ;
grant through his/her intercession
that we may lead a life worthy of our calling
and reach the perfection
which you set before us in your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

2 For an abbot

Lord God,
in the holy abbot N. you have set before us
a model of evangelical perfection;
grant that amid the changing fortunes of this world
we may cling with all our hearts
to the abiding things of heaven.

We ask this 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.

3 O God,
you called Saint N.
to seek out your kingdom in this world
by striving for perfect charity;
grant that with joyful spirits and confidence in his/her prayers
we may advance along the way of love.

We ask this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

1 God of mercy,
in Saint N. you destroyed the old nature of sin
and formed a new creature in your likeness;
be pleased to renew us too,
that we may offer you
the acceptable sacrifice of pardon and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Accept, O Lord, the gifts
which we, your servants, have placed on your altar
as we keep the memory of blessed N.;
free us from the burden of worldly cares,
that our hearts may treasure you alone.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

1 All-powerful God,
grant that we who take strength from this sacrament
may, like Saint N.,
learn to seek you above all else
and to shine forth in the world as your new creation.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

2 Lord God,
by the power of this sacrament and the example of Saint N.
guide us always in your love
and perfect the good work you have begun in us,
until the day of Christ Jesus,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

OTHER HOLY MEN AND WOMEN

OPENING
PRAYER

1 Almighty and eternal God,
in bestowing the glory of heaven on your saints
you give us fresh proof of your love;
grant that their prayers and their example
may inspire us to follow your Son more closely,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

2 O God,
you alone are holy
and without you no one is good;
grant through the intercession of Saint N.
that we may so live our lives
as never to be deprived of your glory.

We ask this 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.

3 O God,
in our weakness
you give us the help and example of your saints
to make smooth the path of salvation.
Grant that we who recall the entry of Saint N. into heaven
may follow in his/her footsteps
on the journey that leads to you.

We ask this 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.

4 O God,
you know that in our weakness we often fail;
through the prayers and example of your saints
mercifully draw us back to the embrace of your love.

We ask this 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.

5 Lord, hear the just prayers of your saints
and come to the aid of your faithful people.
Let all who celebrate this feast with devotion
share the lot of the saints in glory.

We ask this 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.

6 Almighty God,
let the example of your saints challenge us to a holier life,
and grant that we who observe the feast of Saint N.
may faithfully imitate his/her holy actions.

We ask this 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.

7 For holy women

O God,
each year you gladden our hearts
on the feast of blessed N.;
grant that we who honour her through this celebration
may also follow the example of her holy life.

We ask this 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.

8 For holy women

Almighty God,
in the admirable life of N.
you have given your people
an outstanding example of humility;
grant that her intercession
may bring us help from heaven.

We make our prayer 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.

9 For holy women

O God, glory of the humble,
you willed that Saint N. excel
in the beauty of her charity and patience;
grant through her merits and intercession
that we may take up our cross daily
and never falter in our love for you.

We ask this 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.

10 For holy women

Pour out upon us, O Lord,
the spirit of knowledge and love of you
with which you filled your servant N.,
that like her we may serve you with all our hearts
and please you by our faith and our actions.

Grant this 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.

PRAYER
OVER THE
GIFTS

1 In your goodness, Lord, receive our prayers
and protect us through the intercession of your saints,
that we may offer fitting worship at your altar.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 All-powerful God,
we ask that our humble offering may be pleasing to you,
for the honour of your saints
and for the cleansing of body and spirit.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 Lord,
by the sacrifice we offer in memory of Saint N.,
impart to your faithful people
the gifts of unity and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 Lord,
on this feast of Saint N.
grant that the sacrifice we offer to your glory
may find favour in your sight
and be for us a means of salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

5 Lord,
as we present these gifts at your altar,
instil in us the spirit of love
with which you filled the heart of Saint N.,
that we may approach this sacred action
with pure minds and fervent hearts
and offer a sacrifice
that pleases you and brings us life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6 We implore your mercy, O Lord,
on the feast of your saints,
that the gifts we offer at this altar
may render you perfect praise
and obtain for us the riches of your grace.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

7 For holy women
We present our offerings to you, Lord,
in remembrance of Saint N.,
humbly praying that they may bring us
your pardon and your salvation.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

8 For holy women
Lord,
look with favour on the sacrifice of your people,
offered with devotion in honour of your saints,
and grant that we may experience
its saving effects in our lives.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION

1 Almighty and eternal God,
Father of peace and of all consolation,
we have gathered to praise your name and honour your saints.
Look upon your family
and grant that by sharing in the sacrament of your only Son
we may receive the pledge of eternal redemption.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

2 Lord God,
as we recall the birth of your saints to glory,
let the gift of your sacrament so nourish us
that the blessings we now enjoy through your grace
may become our eternal delight.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 Lord God,
let the sacrament we have received
on this feast of Saint N.
sanctify our minds and hearts,
that we may become partakers of your divine nature.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

4 Nourished by this holy gift, Lord God,
we humbly pray
that in this sacrifice duly offered
we may experience an increase of your saving grace.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

5 Merciful God,
let our sharing in this sacrament
deliver us from evil
and make us stand firm in the light of your truth.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

6 Grant, Lord our God,
that the divine mystery we celebrate in memory of your saints
may effect in us salvation and eternal peace.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

7 For holy women

Almighty God,
on this feast of Saint N.
let your divine sacrament enlighten and inspire us,
that our hearts may burn with holy desires
and our lives abound in good works.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

8 For holy women

We have feasted, Lord God,
on your gifts that we have received
in this celebration of Saint N.;
grant that we may be cleansed from all sin
and protected by their saving power.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.



THE ORDER OF MASS

*True worshippers must worship God
in spirit and in truth*

SEE JOHN 4:24

OUTLINE OF THE ORDER OF MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

Greeting

Opening Rite

Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water

or

Penitential Rite

or

Litany of Praise

or

Kyrie

or

Gloria

or

Other Opening Rite

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Homily

Profession of Faith

General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Prayer over the Gifts

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Period of Silence or Song of Praise

Prayer after Communion

CONCLUDING RITE

[Announcements]

Greeting

Blessing

Dismissal

On most weekdays, certain elements of the Order of Mass will not be included, for example, the *Gloria*, the second reading, the profession of faith, announcements. In accord with circumstances or the musical resources available, other elements may also be omitted, for example, the entrance procession or the gospel acclamation.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

After the people have assembled, the opening song is sung while the priest, deacon, and other ministers go to the altar.

When the priest and deacon come to the altar, they make the proper reverence with the ministers and kiss the altar. If incense is used, the priest incenses the altar while circling it. Then, with the deacon and ministers, the priest goes to the chair.

GREETING

After the opening song, the priest and the faithful remain standing; the priest faces the people. All make the sign of the cross, while the priest says:

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

The people answer:

Amen.

Then the priest, extending his hands, greets all present with one of the following greetings. (A bishop may say either **Peace be with you** or one of the following greetings.)

- A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

- B The Lord be with you.

- C The grace and peace of God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

- D Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father
and Christ Jesus our Lord
be with you all.
- E The grace of God,
so rich in mercy and boundless in compassion,
be with you all.
- F Citizens with the saints and members of God's household,
grace and peace be with you.
- G The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose table we share,
be with you all.

The people answer:

And also with you.

The priest, deacon, or other suitable minister may very briefly introduce the Mass of the day.

OPENING RITE

The opening rite may take one of the following forms.

- I. Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water (page 416)
 - II. Penitential Rite (page 420)
 - III. Litany of Praise (page 422)
 - IV. Kyrie (page 426)
 - V. Gloria (page 428)
 - VI. Other Opening Rite (see page 430)
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I. RITE OF BLESSING AND SPRINKLING OF WATER

At Sunday Masses or on other suitable occasions the rite of blessing and sprinkling of water may be celebrated. After greeting the people, the priest remains standing at the chair, with a vessel of water in front of him.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Facing the people, the priest invites them to pray, using one of the following invitations or similar words.

- A Let us pray, dear friends,
that the Lord our God may bless this gift of water,
which will be sprinkled upon us
to remind us of our baptism.

May God help us to remain faithful
to the Holy Spirit we have received.

- B Brothers and sisters,
let us invoke and bless the name of God the all-holy,
that this water may be for us
a sign of the new life in Christ,
which in baptism we have all received.

BLESSING OF WATER

After a brief period of silence, the priest, with hands outstretched, sings or says one of the following prayers.

- A On Sunday only
- All-powerful and ever-living God,
your gift of water brings life and freshness to the earth;
by water we are cleansed from sin
and receive the gift of eternal life.
On this day which you have made your own
we ask you, Lord, to bless + this water:
may it be our safeguard and protection.

Renew in us the living fountain of your grace
and defend us, soul and body, from evil,
that we may approach you with pure hearts
and worthily receive your gift of salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The people answer:

Amen.

B Lord God almighty,
fountain and wellspring of all life,
we ask you to bless + this water.
With trust in you
we use it to beg forgiveness of our sins
and to seek the protection of your grace
against illness and the snares of the enemy.
In your mercy, O Lord, give us the living water
that wells up as a spring of salvation,
that we may avoid all dangers to body and soul
and enter your presence with hearts made clean.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The people answer:

Amen.

C

The priest sings: The people answer:

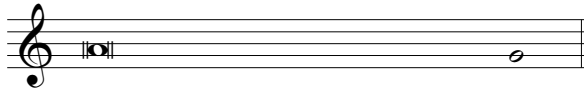
Praised be the Lord, the Cre - ator. Praised be the name of the Lord.
Praised be the Lord, the Resurrection and the Life. Praised be the name of the Lord.
Praised be the Lord, the Spir - it of holiness. Praised be the name of the Lord.

The priest continues:

Lord God, Creator and giver of life, bless this water which we use in faith.

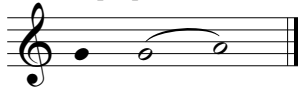
Wash away the sin that di - vides us, make new life spring up with - in us,

and lead us, whole and complete, into your presence to bless your glori-ous name.



We ask this through Christ our Lord.

The people answer:



A - men. _____

D During the season of Easter

Lord God almighty,
hear the prayers of your people.
Send your blessing + upon this water,
as we recall the wonder of our creation
and the still greater work of our redemption.

You created water to make the fields fruitful
and to refresh and cleanse our bodies.

You made water the channel of your loving-kindness:
through water you delivered your people from bondage
and quenched their thirst in the desert.

The prophets used water to symbolise
the new covenant you would make with humankind.

Through water, which Christ made holy in the Jordan,
you have restored our sinful nature in the sacrament of rebirth.

May this water remind us of our own baptism,
and may we rejoice with our brothers and sisters
who have been baptised in this Easter season.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The people answer:

Amen.

BLESSING OF SALT

Where the local situation or popular tradition suggests that the mixing of salt and holy water be maintained, the priest blesses salt, saying:

God of power and might,
at your command the prophet Elisha
threw salt into a spring of water
to make it wholesome again.
We ask you, Lord, to bless + this salt
created by your hand.

Grant in your mercy
that wherever this salt and water is sprinkled,
the attacks of the Evil One may be repelled
and the presence of your Holy Spirit may keep us from harm.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The people answer:

Amen.

Then he pours the salt into the water in silence.

SPRINKLING

Taking the sprinkler, the priest sprinkles himself, the ministers of the Mass, and then other deacons and priests present and the people. He may move through the church for the sprinkling of the people.

Meanwhile an antiphon, page 1014, or hymn, or some other appropriate song is sung.

The opening prayer then follows.

II. PENITENTIAL RITE

INVITATION TO REPENTANCE

After the greeting, the priest invites the people to acknowledge their sins in silence and to repent of them, using one of the following invitations or similar words.

- A As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love,
we confess that we are sinners
and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.
- B Gathered together in Christ,
let us ask forgiveness with confidence,
for God is full of gentleness and compassion.
- C My brothers and sisters,
let us acknowledge our sins,
that we may worthily celebrate these sacred mysteries.

A pause for silent reflection follows.

CONFESSION OF SIN

After the period of silence, one of the following forms for the confession of sin is used.

- A All say:
I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned through my own fault
All strike their breast.
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and in what I have failed to do;
and 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.

B The priest or other suitable minister says:
Have mercy on us, Lord.
 The people answer:
For we have sinned against you.
 The priest or minister says:
Show us your steadfast love, O God.
 The people answer:
And grant us your salvation.

ABSOLUTION

 The priest says one of the following forms of absolution.

A May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

 The people answer:
Amen.

B May almighty God cleanse us of our sins
and through the celebration of this eucharist
make us worthy to sit at the table of the kingdom for ever.

 The people answer:
Amen.

 The opening prayer then follows.

III. LITANY OF PRAISE

INVITATION

After the greeting, the priest invites the people to praise Christ, using one of the following invitations or similar words.

A Before listening to the word
and celebrating the eucharist,
let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

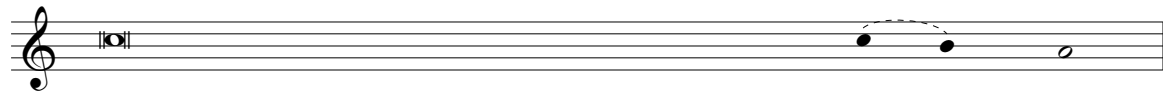
B Praise the risen Saviour;
call out for Christ's mercy.

C Rich in mercy is our Saviour
and great in kindness.
Praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

INVOCATIONS TO CHRIST

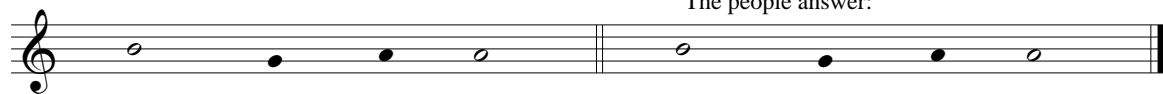
The deacon, another suitable minister, or, if there is no other minister, the priest sings or says one of the following forms of invocation or other similar invocations to Christ.

A



1. You were sent to heal the contrite:
2. You came to call sinners:
3. You plead for us at the right hand of the Father:

The people answer:



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

B Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

The people answer:

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

The people answer:

Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

The people answer:

Lord, have mercy.

C Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:

Lord, have mercy.

The people answer:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:

Christ, have mercy.

The people answer:

Christ, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

The people answer:

Lord, have mercy.

- D Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
Lord, have mercy.
The people answer:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:
Christ, have mercy.
The people answer:
Christ, have mercy
- Lord Jesus, you intercede for us at the throne of grace:
Lord, have mercy.
The people answer:
Lord, have mercy.
- E You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.
The people answer:
Lord, have mercy.
- You bring pardon and peace to the sinner:
Christ, have mercy.
The people answer:
Christ, have mercy.
- You bring light to those in darkness:
Lord, have mercy.
The people answer:
Lord, have mercy.
- F Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy.
The people answer:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy.
The people answer:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:

Lord, have mercy.

The people answer:

Lord, have mercy.

G Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

The people answer:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you have given us the consolation of the truth:

Christ, have mercy.

The people answer:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting life:

Lord, have mercy.

The people answer:

Lord, have mercy.

H Lord Jesus, you healed the sick:

Lord, have mercy.

The people answer:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners:

Christ, have mercy.

The people answer:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us all:

Lord, have mercy.

The people answer:

Lord, have mercy.

The opening prayer then follows.

IV. KYRIE

INVITATION

After the greeting, the priest invites the people to acclaim Christ, using one of the following invitations or similar words.

- A You are called by God to rejoice in the embrace of mercy.
Acclaim Christ our Saviour.
- B God is making all things new.
Acclaim Christ, the firstfruits of the new creation.
- C You are called by God out of darkness
into the dawn of radiant light.
Acclaim Christ, the sun of justice.

INVOCATIONS TO CHRIST

One of the following forms of invocation of praise and petition to Christ the Lord is sung. Other settings of the *Kyrie* are found on pages 1031-1032.

A

Choir or cantor: The people answer:

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Choir or cantor: The people answer:


Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Choir or cantor: The people answer:

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.


B

Choir or cantor: The people answer:




Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

Choir or cantor: The people answer:



Chris - te, — e - le - i - son. Chris - te, — e - le - i - son.

Choir or cantor: The people answer:



Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. _____

The opening prayer then follows.

V. GLORIA

The *Gloria* is not used on the Sundays or weekdays of Advent and Lent.

INVITATION

After the greeting, the priest invites the people to praise God, using one of the following invitations or similar words.

- A Let us sing the praises of the Lord,
the God who made us,
whose glory is from age to age.

- B With peoples everywhere,
let us glorify our God in joyful song.

- C With all the voices of heaven,
let us sing praise and honour and glory to God.

GLORIA

The *Gloria* is then sung or said. Other settings of the *Gloria* are found on pages 1033-1035.

The following refrain may be sung by the cantor and repeated by all at the beginning and conclusion of the **Gloria**.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est,— and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

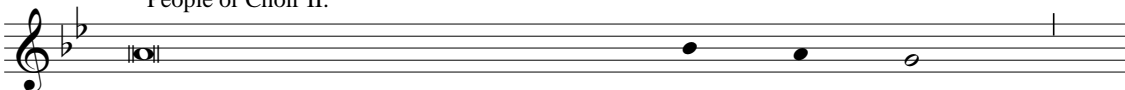
The verses of the Gloria may be alternated as indicated below

Cantor or Choir I:

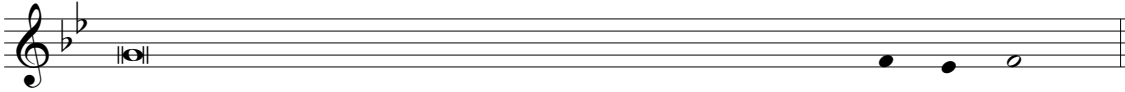


Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

People or Choir II:

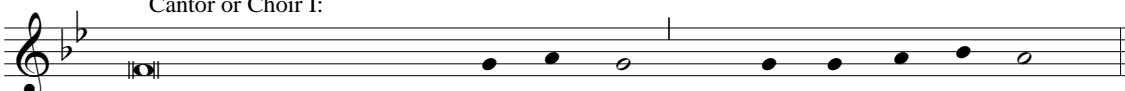


Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,



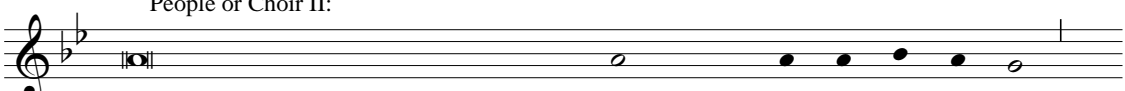
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Cantor or Choir I:

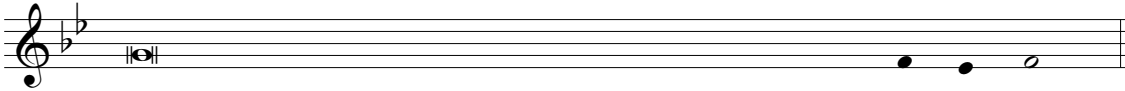


Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

People or Choir II:



you take away the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

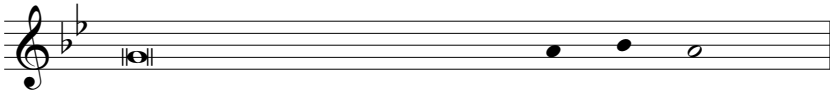


you are seated at the right hand of the Father: re - ceive our prayer.

Cantor or Choir I:

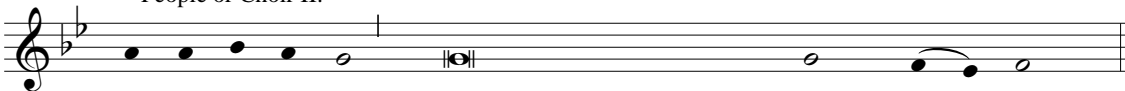


For you a - lone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,



you alone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

People or Choir II:



with the Ho - ly Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, A - men.

The opening prayer then follows.

VI. OTHER OPENING RITE

Other opening rites are used on particular occasions and follow the prescriptions of the respective liturgical books. These rites occur on certain special feasts, or when the liturgy of the hours is combined with the Mass, or when special rites are celebrated during the Mass, for example, baptism or funeral rites. Sometimes the general structure of the introductory rites is modified, for example, on Passion Sunday or on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, when an entrance procession forms part of this opening rite.

The opening prayer then follows.

OPENING PRAYER

The priest, with hands joined, invites the people to pray, singing or saying:

Let us pray.

All pray silently for a while.

Then the priest, with hands outstretched, sings or says the opening prayer.

At the end of the prayer, the people give their assent by the acclamation:

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

All are seated for the liturgy of the word. During the liturgy of the word there are proper times for silence, for example, at the beginning, after the first and the second reading, after the homily. The priest may briefly introduce the liturgy of the word.

FIRST READING

The reader goes to the ambo for the first reading.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader adds:

The word of the Lord.

All respond with the acclamation:

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The psalmist or cantor sings (or recites) the psalm from the ambo and the people make the response.

SECOND READING

If there is a second reading before the gospel, it is read at the ambo as before, if possible by a second reader.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader adds:

The word of the Lord.

All respond with the acclamation:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All stand, and the *Alleluia* or other chant before the gospel is sung by the whole congregation, not only by the cantor who intones it or by the choir alone. If it is not to be sung, it is omitted.

Meanwhile, if incense is used, the priest puts some in the censer.

Then the deacon who is to proclaim the gospel makes a profound bow before the priest and in a low voice asks the blessing:

Father, give me your blessing.

The priest says in a low voice:

The Lord be in your heart and on your lips that you may worthily proclaim his holy gospel: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

The deacon answers:

Amen.

If, however, there is no deacon, another priest who is to proclaim the gospel, or in his absence, the presiding priest himself, bows toward the altar, with hands joined, and says inaudibly:

Almighty God, cleanse my heart and my lips that I may worthily proclaim your holy gospel.

The deacon or, if there is no deacon, the priest goes to the ambo. He may be accompanied by ministers with incense and candles.

GOSPEL

The deacon or, if there is no deacon, the priest sings or says:

The Lord be with you.

The people answer:

And also with you.

The deacon (or priest) makes the sign of the cross on the book, and then on his forehead, lips, and breast, as he sings or says:

A reading from the holy gospel according to N.

All respond with the acclamation:

Glory to you, Lord.

Then, if incense is used, the deacon (or priest) incenses the book and proclaims the gospel.

After the gospel, the deacon (or priest) sings or says:
The gospel of the Lord.

All respond with the following or another suitable acclamation.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then the deacon (or priest) kisses the book, saying inaudibly:
Through the words of the gospel may our sins be washed away.

HOMILY

All sit for the homily. It should ordinarily be given by the presiding priest, either at the chair, standing or sitting, or at the ambo. It should develop some point of the readings or of another text from the Ordinary or from the Proper of the Mass of the day and take into account the mystery being celebrated and the needs proper to the listeners.

There must be a homily on Sundays and holydays of obligation at all Masses that are celebrated with a congregation; it may not be omitted without a serious reason. It is recommended on other days, especially on the weekdays of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and the Easter season, as well as on feasts and occasions when the people come to church in large numbers.

Following the homily, if it was given at the ambo, the priest returns to the chair. A period of silence may be observed.

If catechumens are present, they may be kindly dismissed before the profession of faith.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

On Sundays and solemnities all stand and make the profession of faith together. It may be used also at special, more solemn celebrations. In celebrations of Masses with children and on other occasions when permitted, the Apostles' Creed (option B or C) may be used as the profession of faith.

Whenever there is a renewal of baptismal promises, the profession of faith is omitted.

If the profession of faith is sung, all are to sing it together or in alternation.

A NICENE CREED

All make a profound bow during the words **was incarnate . . . made man**.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
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.

We 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 worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

B APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

C

APOSTLES' CREED IN QUESTION FORM

The priest says:

Do you believe in God?

The people answer:

We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

The priest says:

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

The people answer:

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

The priest says:

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

The people answer:

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The general intercessions (prayer of the faithful) then follow. The priest stands at the chair (or at the ambo) and presides, and the people take their own part. It is appropriate that this prayer be included in all Masses celebrated with a congregation, so that petitions will be offered for the Church, for civil authorities, for those oppressed by various needs, for all people, and for the salvation of the world. Sample texts are given on pages 1016-1028.

INVITATION

The priest briefly invites the congregation to pray.

INTENTIONS

The deacon, cantor, reader, another minister, or some of the faithful then announce the intentions from the ambo or other convenient place. The whole assembly expresses its supplication either by a response sung or said together after each intention or by brief periods of silent prayer.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

After the intentions, the priest, with hands outstretched, says the concluding prayer, to which the people respond:

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

The people sit, and the song for the preparation of the gifts is begun.

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

The deacon and other ministers place on the altar the corporal, purificator, cup (if the cup is not prepared at the side table), and Sacramentary.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

The gifts are then brought forward. It is desirable that the faithful express their participation by bringing up the bread and wine for the celebration of the eucharist and other gifts for the poor and the needs of the Church. The gifts are received by the priest at a convenient place, with the deacon assisting. Money or other gifts are to be put in a suitable place but not on the altar.

The deacon may prepare the cup at the side table. He pours wine and a little water into the cup, saying inaudibly:

By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

At the altar, the deacon hands the priest the plate or other vessel with the bread to be consecrated or the priest takes the plate or other vessel with the bread and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, says inaudibly:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. †
Through your goodness we have this bread to present to you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Then he places the plate with the bread on the corporal.

If no song for the preparation of the gifts is sung, the priest may say the preceding words in an audible voice. In this case the people may respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

If the cup has not been prepared at the side table, the deacon or, if there is no deacon, the priest pours wine and a little water into the cup, saying inaudibly the prayer **By the mystery**.

Then the deacon hands the priest the cup or the priest takes the cup and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, says inaudibly:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. ††
Through your goodness we have this wine to present to you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.

In England and Wales only:

† Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

†† Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.

He places the cup on the corporal.

If no song for the preparation of the gifts is sung, the priest may say the preceding words in an audible voice. In this case, the people may respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

The priest then bows profoundly and says inaudibly:

**With humble and contrite hearts, Lord God, we ask you to receive us
and to be pleased with our sacrifice this day.**

The priest may now incense the gifts on the altar and the altar itself. Afterward, the deacon or another minister incenses the priest and the people.

Next, the priest stands at the side of the altar and washes his hands, saying inaudibly:

Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All stand. The priest, standing at the centre of the altar, extends his hands and invites the people to pray, using one of the following invitations. At the conclusion of the invitation, he joins his hands.

**A Pray, brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable
to God, the almighty Father.**

The people respond:

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of God's name,
for our good, and the good of all the Church.**

B Let us pray.

All pray silently for a while.

Then the priest, with hands outstretched, sings or says the prayer over the gifts.

At the end of the prayer, the people give their assent by the acclamation:

Amen.

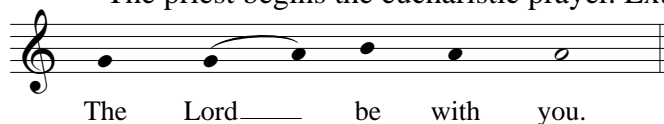
E U C H A R I S T I C P R A Y E R

The priest leads the assembly in the eucharistic prayer. The people take part reverently and attentively and make the acclamations. The eucharistic prayer may be sung (see pages 821–881).

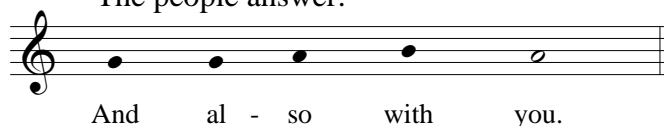
P R E F A C E

D I A L O G U E

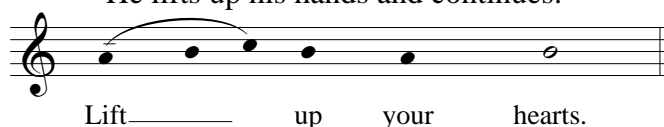
The priest begins the eucharistic prayer. Extending his hands, he sings or says:



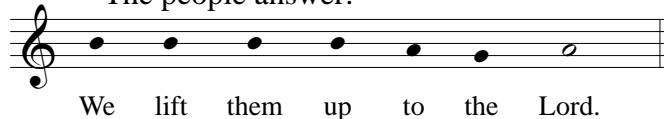
The people answer:



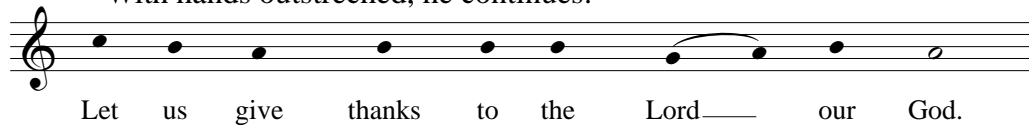
He lifts up his hands and continues:



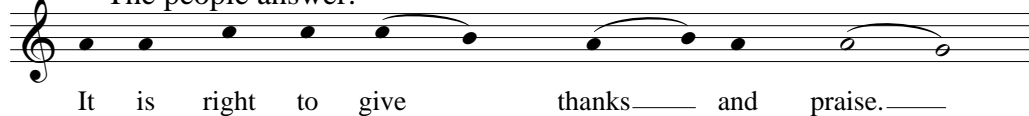
The people answer:



With hands outstretched, he continues:



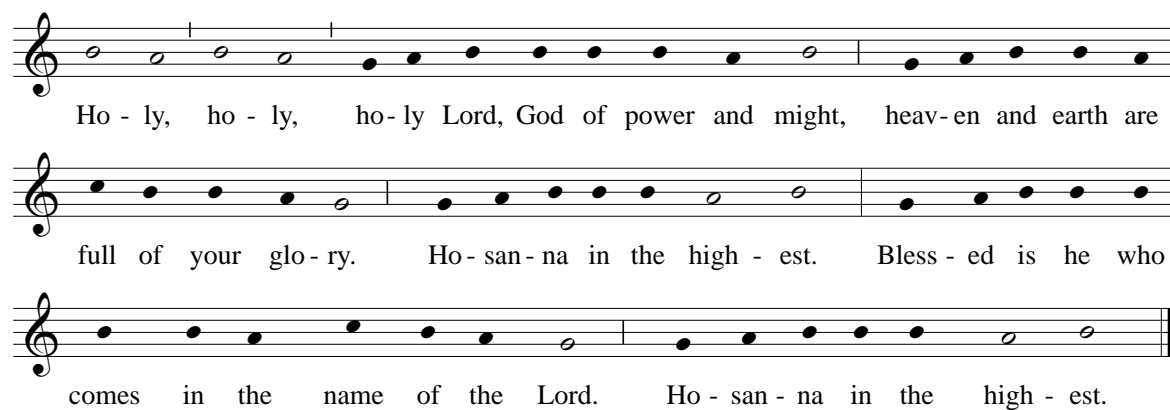
The people answer:



The priest continues the preface with hands outstretched. Alternative openings for the prefaces may be found on pages 508–509.

SANCTUS

At the end of the preface, the priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

PREFACE OPENINGS

One of the following preface openings may be used in place of the opening that is given with each preface. Musical settings of these preface openings are found on pages 510–514.

- 1 It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise,
Father most holy,
[through Jesus Christ our Lord].

- 2 It is truly right to give you thanks,
it is fitting to give you glory,
Father most holy,
[through Jesus Christ our Lord].

- 3 It is truly right and just
that we should give you thanks and praise and glory,
almighty and everlasting God,
[through Jesus Christ our Lord].

- 4 It is truly right and just
that in all things we should give you thanks, eternal God,
and in every season proclaim your mighty deeds,
[through Jesus Christ our Lord].

- 5 It is truly right and just,
almighty Father,
that in every season we should offer you
our hymn of thanks, our canticle of praise,
[through Jesus Christ our Lord].

6 It is truly right and just,
truly fitting for our salvation,
to offer you thanks and praise,
Lord, heavenly Father, almighty and merciful God
[through Jesus Christ our Lord].

7 It is truly right and just,
Lord God,
that earth unite with heaven in praising you,
[through Jesus Christ our Lord].

8 It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
to praise your loving-kindness,
merciful Father, almighty God,
king of endless glory,
[through Jesus Christ our Lord].

9 Almighty and eternal God,
it is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
to praise you without ceasing
and in all things to offer you our thanks,
[through Jesus Christ our Lord].

MUSICAL SETTINGS OF PREFACE OPENINGS

One of the following preface openings may be used in place of the opening that is given with each preface. The alternative opening in each case contains the additional phrase **through our Lord Jesus Christ** and is used when the preface opening it replaces employs this phrase.



Musical setting of Preface Openings
(Pages 510–514)



Musical setting of Preface Openings
(Pages 510–514)



Musical setting of Preface Openings
(Pages 510–514)



Musical setting of Preface Openings
(Pages 510–514)

PREFACE OF ADVENT I

The two comings of Christ

This preface is used in Masses of the season of Advent from the First Sunday of Advent to 16 December and in other Masses celebrated during this period which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When first he came among us
in the lowliness of human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago
and opened for us the way to salvation.
Now, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours,
we watch for the day
when Christ will come again in majesty and glory.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our sal - vation,
 always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
 through our Lord Je - sus Christ. When first he came a - mong us
 in the lowliness of hu - man flesh, he ful - filed the plan you formed long a - go
 and opened for us the way to sal - vation. Now, hoping that the salvation promised us
 will be ours, we watch for the day when Christ will come a - gain in maj - es -
 ty and glory. And so, with angels and archangels, with all the heav - en - ly host,
 we proclaim your glo - ry and join their unending cho - rus of praise:

PREFACE OF ADVENT II

Christ foretold, Christ awaited

This preface is used in Masses of the season of Advent from 17 December to 24 December and in other Masses celebrated during this period which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother awaited with love beyond all telling,
the one whose coming John the Baptist heralded,
and whose presence he proclaimed.

This same Lord invites us to prepare with joy
for the mystery of his birth,
so that when he comes
he may find us watchful in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF CHRISTMAS I

Christ the light

This preface is used in Masses of the octave of Christmas and on other weekdays of the season of Christmas.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

In the mystery of the Word made flesh
your glory fills the eyes of our mind
with a new and radiant vision,
so that, seeing God made visible in Christ,
we are caught up in the love of things we cannot see.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF CHRISTMAS II

The incarnation makes creation whole again

This preface is used in Masses of the octave of Christmas and on other weekdays of the season of Christmas.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the great mystery of his birth,
the God we cannot see
has now appeared in human form.
The one begotten before all ages
begins to live in time.
He has come to raise the fallen world,
to make creation whole again,
and to lead humanity from exile
back to your heavenly kingdom.

And so, with all the angels and saints,
we sing the joyful hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF CHRISTMAS III

Divine and human exchange in the incarnation of the Word

This preface is used in Masses of the octave of Christmas and on other weekdays of the season of Christmas.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the marvellous exchange that brings our redemption
is revealed this day in all its splendour.

When your eternal Word assumes human frailty,
our mortal nature takes on immortal value.

More wonderfully still,
this union between God and ourselves
makes us sharers in eternal life.

And so we join the multitude of angels
in their joyful chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Christ, the light of the nations

This preface is used in Masses on the Epiphany of the Lord. It may be used, as may the Christmas prefaces, on the weekdays between the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You have revealed this day
the mystery of our salvation in Christ,
the light to enlighten all nations.
Now that he has appeared in our mortal flesh,
you have refashioned us in the image of his immortal glory.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The revelation of Christ's mission

This preface is used in Masses on the Baptism of the Lord.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

In the waters of the Jordan
you revealed a new baptism
through signs and wonders:
a voice came down from heaven
to waken our faith in your Word dwelling among us;
your Spirit descended as a dove
to make it known that Christ, your servant,
was anointed with the oil of gladness
and was sent to preach the good news to the poor.

With joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF LENT I

The spiritual meaning of Lent

This preface is used in weekday Masses of the season of Lent.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Each year you bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast.
By more faithful prayer and works of charity
and by celebrating the mysteries of our rebirth,
we are led to the fullness of grace as your sons and daughters.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF LENT II

Renewal through penance

This preface is used in weekday Masses of the season of Lent.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You set aside this season of grace for your people
to renew and purify their hearts,
so that, freed from all harmful desires,
they may live in this passing world
with hearts set on the world that will never end.

Now, with all the angels and saints,
we praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF LENT III

The fruits of self-denial

This preface is used in weekday Masses of the season Lent and on fast days.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You bid us show our thanks
through the practice of self-denial,
that we may curb our sinful pride
and, by sharing our bread with the hungry,
may imitate your generous love.

Now, with all the angels and saints,
we praise and magnify your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF LENT IV

The reward of fasting

This preface is used in weekday Masses of the season of Lent and on fast days.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

Through bodily fasting you control our sinful desires
and raise our minds to you;
you give us strength
and grant us the reward of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the choirs of angels and all the powers of heaven
worship in awe before your presence.

May our voices blend with theirs
as they sing with joy the hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD I

The power of the cross

This preface is used in Masses celebrated during the fifth week of Lent and in Masses of the mysteries of the cross and of the passion of the Lord.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

Through the saving passion of your Son
the whole world is called to acknowledge your sacred majesty,
for the power of the cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

And so we join the angels and saints
in the joyous hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD II

The victory of the passion

This preface is used in Masses celebrated on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The days of his life-giving death and glorious resurrection draw near:
this is the hour

when we celebrate his triumph over Satan's pride,
when we solemnly recall the mystery of our redemption.

Through him the hosts of angels adore you
and rejoice in your presence for ever.

May our voices join with theirs
in the triumphant chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF EASTER I

The paschal mystery

This preface is used in Masses of the octave of Easter. It may also be used on the other days of the season of Easter. During the octave of Easter, the words **on this Easter day** are used; on the other days of the season of Easter, the words **in this Easter season** are used.

The Lord be with you.
— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
that we should always sing your glory, Lord;
but we praise you with greater joy than ever
on this Easter day [*or: in this Easter season*]
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.

He is the true Lamb who took away the sins of the world.
By dying he destroyed our death;
by rising he restored our life.

Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF EASTER II

New life in Christ

This preface is used in Masses of the season of Easter.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
that we should always sing your glory, Lord;
but we praise you with greater joy than ever
in this Easter season
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.

Through him the children of light rise to eternal life
and the gates of heaven are unlocked
to receive his faithful people.
For his death is our ransom from death
and in his resurrection all are raised to new life.

Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF EASTER III

Christ lives and intercedes for us for ever

This preface is used in Masses of the season of Easter.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
that we should always sing your glory, Lord;
but we praise you with greater joy than ever
in this Easter season
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.

He continues to offer himself for us,
to plead our cause before your throne.
Christ is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb, once slain, who lives for ever.

Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF EASTER IV

The restoration of the universe through the paschal mystery

This preface is used in Masses of the season of Easter.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
that we should always sing your glory, Lord;
but we praise you with greater joy than ever
in this Easter season
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.

In him a new age has dawned:
the long reign of sin is ended,
a broken world has been restored,
and life for us is once again made whole.

Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF EASTER V

Christ is priest and victim

This preface is used in Masses of the season of Easter.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
that we should always sing your glory, Lord;
but we praise you with greater joy than ever
in this Easter season
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.

By offering his body on the cross,
he brought to completion the sacrifices of old.
By commending himself into your hands for our salvation,
he showed himself the priest, the altar, and the lamb of sacrifice.

Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD I

Christ ascends into glory

This preface is used in Masses on the Ascension of the Lord. It may be used, as may the prefaces of Easter, on the days between the Ascension and Pentecost in all Masses which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
that we should always sing your glory, Lord;
but we praise you with greater joy than ever
in this Easter season
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.

[Today] the Lord Jesus,
the King of glory, who has conquered sin and death,
ascended to the highest heavens
while angels gazed in wonder.
He is the mediator between God and humankind,
judge of the world and Lord of heavenly powers.
He has not abandoned our human condition
but has filled us with hope
that where he, our head, has gone before us
we, his members, shall follow after.

Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD II

Christ taken up into glory

This preface is used in Masses on the Ascension of the Lord. It may be used, as may the prefaces of Easter, on the days between the Ascension and Pentecost in all Masses which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
that we should always sing your glory, Lord;
but we praise you with greater joy than ever
in this Easter season
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.

In his risen body he plainly showed himself to his disciples
and was taken up to heaven in their sight
to claim for us a share in his divinity.

Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD III

The promise of the Holy Spirit

This preface is used in Masses on the Ascension of the Lord. It may be used, as may the prefaces of Easter, on the days between the Ascension and Pentecost in all Masses which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
that we should always sing your glory, Lord;
but we praise you with greater joy than ever
in this Easter season
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.

Christ, the High Priest, has entered once for all
into the sanctuary of heaven.

There he invokes upon your Church
the perpetual outpouring of your Holy Spirit.

The shepherd and guardian of our souls,
Christ calls us to be united in prayer
as Mary and the disciples were united,
awaiting the fulfilment of his promise,
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF ORDINARY TIME I

(SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME I)

The paschal mystery and the people of God

This preface may be used in weekday Masses in Ordinary Time and, when appropriate, in other Masses which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through the mystery of his cross and resurrection
he freed us from the yoke of sin and death
and called us to the glory that has made us
a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
a people set apart to proclaim your mighty works,
for you have called us out of darkness
into your own wonderful light.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF ORDINARY TIME II

(SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME II)

The mystery of salvation

This preface may be used in weekday Masses in Ordinary Time and, when appropriate, in other Masses which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Out of compassion for us sinners
he humbled himself to be born of the Virgin.
By suffering on the cross, he freed us from unending death;
by rising from the dead, he gave us eternal life.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF ORDINARY TIME III

(SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME III)

A human being saves the human race

This preface may be used in weekday Masses in Ordinary Time and, when appropriate, in other Masses which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

We know that your boundless glory is shown in this,
that you, the most high God,
came to the rescue of our mortal nature.

In our very weakness you found a remedy:
that nature which led to our downfall
became the means of our salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the hosts of angels adore you
and rejoice in your presence for ever.

May our voices join with theirs
in the triumphant chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF ORDINARY TIME IV

(SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME IV)

The history of salvation

This preface may be used in weekday Masses in Ordinary Time and, when appropriate, in other Masses which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

His birth brought the human race a new beginning;
by his suffering he wiped away our sins;
by rising from the dead he opened the way to eternal life;
and by his ascension to you, Father, he unlocked the gates of heaven.

And so we join the throng of saints and angels
as they sing the unending hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF ORDINARY TIME V

(SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME V)

Creation

This preface may be used in weekday Masses in Ordinary Time and, when appropriate, in other Masses which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

All things are of your making,
all times and seasons obey your law.
But you fashioned the human family in your own image
and set us over the world in all its wonder,
that we might be stewards of your creation,
praising you day by day
for the marvels of your might and wisdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And so, with all the angels and saints,
we sing the joyful hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF ORDINARY TIME VI

(SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME VI)

The pledge of an eternal Easter

This preface may be used in weekday Masses in Ordinary Time and, when appropriate, in other Masses which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

In you we live and move and have our being.
Each day we experience the wonders of your love,
and receive even now a pledge and foretaste of life eternal.
Possessing the firstfruits of the Spirit,
through whom you raised Jesus from the dead,
we hope to enjoy his paschal victory for ever.

And so, with all the angels and saints,
we sing the joyful hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF ORDINARY TIME VII

(SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME VII)

Salvation through the obedience of Christ

This preface may be used in weekday Masses in Ordinary Time and, when appropriate, in other Masses which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You so loved the world
that you gave your only Son as our Redeemer.
You sent him as one like ourselves,
though free from sin,
that you might love in us what you love in Christ.
Your gifts of grace, lost when we disobeyed you,
are now restored by the obedience of your Son.

And so we join the angels and saints
in the joyous hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF ORDINARY TIME VIII

(SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME VIII)

The Church made one by the oneness of the Trinity

This preface may be used in weekday Masses in Ordinary Time and, when appropriate, in other Masses which have no Preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

When sin had scattered your children afar,
you chose to gather them back to yourself
through the blood of your Son and the power of the Spirit.
Thus a people made one by the oneness of the Trinity
shines forth as your Church,
the body of Christ and the temple of the Spirit,
to the praise of your manifold wisdom.

And so we join the multitude of angels
in their joyful chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE FOR GENERAL USE I

All things renewed in Christ

This preface is used in Masses which have no Preface of their own, when a seasonal preface is not called for.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In him you have renewed all things,
and you have given us all a share in his fullness.
Though he was in the form of God,
he emptied himself,
and by shedding his blood on the cross
he brought his peace to the world.
Therefore he was exalted above all creation
and became the source of eternal life
to all who serve him.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE FOR GENERAL USE II

Salvation through Christ

This preface is used in Masses which have no Preface of their own, when a seasonal preface is not called for.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

In love you created the human race,
in justice we were condemned,
but in mercy you redeemed us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the choirs of angels and all the powers of heaven
worship in awe before your presence.

May our voices blend with theirs
as they sing with joy the hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE FOR GENERAL USE III

Praise to God, who created and restored us

This preface is used in Masses which have no Preface of their own, when a seasonal preface is not called for.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

Through your beloved Son
you created the human family;
through him you restored us to your likeness.

Therefore it is your right
to receive the obedience of all creation,
the praise of the Church on earth,
the thanksgiving of your saints in heaven.

We too rejoice with all the angels
as they sing the hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE FOR GENERAL USE IV

Praise, a gift from God

This preface is used in Masses which have no Preface of their own, when a seasonal preface is not called for.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You have no need of our praise,
yet our desire to thank you is itself your gift.
Our hymn of thanksgiving adds nothing to your greatness,
but makes us grow in your grace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And so we join the multitude of angels
in their joyful chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE FOR GENERAL USE V

The mystery of Christ is proclaimed

This preface is used in Masses which have no Preface of their own, when a seasonal preface is not called for.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With love we celebrate his death.

With living faith we proclaim his resurrection.

With unwavering hope we await his return in glory.

Now, with all the angels and saints,

we praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE FOR GENERAL USE VI

The mystery of our salvation in Christ

This preface, taken from Eucharistic Prayer II, is used in Masses which have no Preface of their own, when a seasonal preface is not called for.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father, it is our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere
to give you thanks
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

He is the Word through whom you made the universe,
the Saviour you sent to redeem us.
He took flesh by the Holy Spirit
and was born of the Virgin Mary.

To accomplish your will
and gain for you a holy people,
he stretched out his arms on the cross,
that he might break the chains of death
and make known the resurrection.

And so with one voice
we join the angels and saints in proclaiming your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE FOR GENERAL USE VII

God, origin of all that exists

This preface is used in Masses which have no Preface of their own, when a seasonal preface is not called for.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You are the origin of all that exists,
yours is the life in everything that lives.

With glory you cover the heavens
and fill the earth with praise.

You formed us, men and women,
to embody your likeness,
to breathe by your Spirit,
and to walk in your ways.

And so we join the angels and saints
in the joyous hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

The mystery of the presentation of the Lord

This preface is used in Masses on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (2 February).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

On this day your Son, who is one with you from eternity,
was presented in the temple
and was revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel
and the light to enlighten all peoples.

We too go forth rejoicing to meet the Saviour
and join with the saints and angels
as they sing the unending hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE VIRGIN MARY

The vocation of Saint Joseph

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of Joseph, Husband of the Virgin Mary (19 March) and in other Masses of Saint Joseph.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
almighty Father, ever-living God,
to give you fitting thanks and praise
as we honour Saint Joseph.

He is the just man whom you gave as husband
to the virgin Mother of God,
the wise and faithful servant whom you placed over your household.
With a father's love he cared for Jesus, your only Son,
who was conceived by the overshadowing of the Spirit.

Through Christ the choirs of angels and all the powers of heaven
worship in awe before your presence.

May our voices blend with theirs
as they sing with joy the hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

The mystery of the incarnation

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (25 March).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Virgin Mary received with faith the angel's message
that the power of the Holy Spirit would overshadow her
and that a child would be born among us for our salvation.
She bore him in her womb with purest love,
that your promises to Israel might be fulfilled
and the hope of nations realised beyond all telling.

Through Christ the hosts of angels adore you
and rejoice in your presence for ever.

May our voices join with theirs
in the triumphant chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE HOLY TRINITY

The mystery of the Holy Trinity

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of the Holy Trinity and in Votive Masses of the Holy Trinity.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

With your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit
you are one God, one Lord,
not in the unity of a single person
but in a Trinity of one nature.

All that you reveal of your glory
we believe also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit.

In confessing the true and eternal Godhead
we adore three distinct Persons,
one in being and equal in majesty.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with cherubim and seraphim,
we sing the unending hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST I

The sacrifice and sacrament of Christ

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ and in Votive Masses of the Holy Eucharist.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He is the true and eternal priest,
who founded this memorial of his unending sacrifice.
He gave himself to you as victim for our deliverance,
and commanded us to make this offering in his memory.
As we eat his body, given for us,
we grow in strength.
As we drink his blood, poured out for us,
we are washed clean.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST II

The effects of the holy Eucharist

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ and in Votive Masses of the Holy Eucharist.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the Last Supper, as he sat at table with his apostles,
Jesus offered himself to you as the Lamb without blemish,
the acceptable gift that gives you perfect praise.
He left this memorial of his passion
to continue its saving power until the end of time.

In this great sacrament you feed your people
and strengthen them in holiness,
so that the human family, which shares the same earth,
may be enlightened by one faith
and drawn together by one love.

We come then to this sacramental table
to be transformed by your grace
into the likeness of the risen Christ.

And, therefore, earth unites with heaven
to sing a new song of praise;
we too join with the hosts of angels
as they proclaim your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST II

The effects of the holy Eucharist

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The boundless love of Christ

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and in Votive Masses of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lifted high on the cross,
Christ poured out his life for us,
so great was his love.
From his wounded side flowed blood and water,
the fountain of the Church's sacraments,
that all might be led to the heart of the Saviour
and joyfully draw from the springs of salvation.

Now, with all the angels and saints,
we praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

John, herald of Christ

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist (24 June) and in other Masses of Saint John the Baptist.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We praise your greatness as we honour the prophet
who prepared the way before your Son.
Among those born of woman
you marked John the Baptist with your special favour.
His birth brought great rejoicing;
even in the womb he leapt for joy, so near was our salvation.

Alone of all the prophets, John pointed to the Lamb
who would take away our sins.
He baptised Jesus, the giver of baptism,
in waters made holy by the one baptised.
By shedding his blood
he gave his last and greatest witness to your Son.

With joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

The twofold mission of Peter and Paul in the Church

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of Peter and Paul (29 June) and in other Masses of Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

We are gladdened by the workings of your grace
in the apostles Peter and Paul:

Peter was the first to confess the faith,
while Paul proclaimed its deepest mysteries.

Peter gathered the earliest Church from among the flock of Israel,
Paul became the teacher and apostle of the Gentiles.

Each in his appointed way gathered into unity
the one family of Christ.

They shared a martyr's crown
and are venerated together throughout the world.

Now, with all the angels and saints,
we praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Christ transfigured shows our glory

This preface is used in Masses on the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord (6 August).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He revealed his glory before Peter, James, and John
to strengthen his followers against the scandal of the cross.
His human body shone like the sun
to show that the whole Church, which is his body,
will one day shine with the glory of Christ, its head.

With joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY INTO HEAVEN

Mary assumed into glory

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven (15 August).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today the virgin Mother of God was taken into heaven
to be the beginning and the image of the Church in glory
and a sign of hope and comfort for your pilgrim people.
You preserved her from the corruption of the grave,
for she had given birth to your Son,
the source of all life.

And so we join the multitude of angels
in their joyful chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE HOLY CROSS

The triumph of the glorious cross

This preface is used in Masses on the feast of the Holy Cross (14 September) and in Votive Masses of the Holy Cross.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You chose the wood of the cross for our redemption,
that where death had its beginning,
there life might arise in triumph;
and that Satan, who conquered through a tree,
might on a tree be overcome,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the choirs of angels and all the powers of heaven
worship in awe before your presence.

May our voices blend with theirs
as they sing with joy the hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE ANGELS

The glory of God in the angels

This preface is used in Masses of the angels.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

In praising your faithful angels and archangels,
we also praise your glory;
in honouring them, we honour you, their Creator.
Their splendour proclaims how great you are
and worthy to be praised above all creation.

Through Christ our Lord
the hosts of angels declare your majesty;
in joyful adoration we make our own
their canticle of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF ALL SAINTS

One with the saints in glory

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of All Saints (1 November).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

Today we keep the festival of your holy city,
the heavenly Jerusalem, our mother,
where around your throne
the saints, our brothers and sisters,
sing your praise for ever.
Their glory fills us with joy,
and through their communion with us in the Church
you give us inspiration and strength
as we press forward on our pilgrimage of faith.

In company with them and with all the angels
we cry out with a single voice
in praise of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

The mystery of Mary and the Church

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (8 December).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You allowed no trace of original sin to touch the Virgin Mary.
Full of grace, she was to be a worthy mother of your Son
and prefigure the beginning of the Church,
the fair Bride of Christ, without spot or wrinkle.
Purest of virgins, she was to bring forth your Son,
the innocent Lamb who takes away our sins.
You chose Mary before all others
to be our gracious advocate and our pattern of holiness.

And so we join the multitude of angels
in their joyful chorus of praise:

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT I

The Spirit sent by the Lord upon the Church

This preface is used in Votive Masses of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He ascended above all the heavens
and from his throne at your right hand
poured into the hearts of your adopted children
the Holy Spirit he had promised.

And so, with steadfast love,
we proclaim your glory,
joining the hosts of angels
in their triumphant chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT II

The working of the Spirit in the Church

This preface is used in Votive Masses of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You bestow your gifts of grace in every age and season,
guiding the Church in the wonderful ways of your providence.
Time and again you come to our aid
through the power of the Holy Spirit,
so that, with loving trust,
we may turn to you in our troubles
and give you thanks in all our joys
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And so we join the multitude of angels
in their joyful chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY I

The motherhood of the blessed Virgin Mary

This preface is used in Masses on the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (1 January). It may be used in other Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the mention of the particular celebration.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
almighty Father, ever-living God,
to give you thanks, blessing, and praise
[as we celebrate... of the blessed Virgin Mary
or: as we honour the blessed Virgin Mary].

By the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit
she conceived your only Son,
and, in the glory of her virginity,
she brought forth the eternal light of the world,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the choirs of angels and all the powers of heaven
worship in awe before your presence.

May our voices blend with theirs
as they sing with joy the hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY II

The Church echoes Mary's song of praise

This preface is used in Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God our Saviour,

it is truly right and just,

our duty and our salvation,

to proclaim the wonders you have worked in all your saints,

and especially on this feast of the blessed Virgin Mary

to echo her praise of your loving-kindness.

For you have truly done great things over all the earth,
and your gracious mercy is from age to age.

When you looked with favour on your lowly servant,
you gave the world through her

Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,

the author of our salvation.

Through him the hosts of angels adore you

and rejoice in your presence for ever.

May our voices join with theirs

in the triumphant chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY III

Mary as model and Mother of the Church

This preface is used in Votive Masses of Mary, Mother of the Church and in other Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
almighty Father, ever-living God,
to give you thanks, blessing, and praise
as we honour the blessed Virgin Mary.

She conceived in her virginal womb
the Word she had first received in her most pure heart,
and by giving birth to the Creator of all
she nurtured the Church at its beginnings.

Standing beneath the cross,
Mary accepted her Son's last loving wish
and took to herself as sons and daughters
all those who by his death are born to new life.

She joined her prayers with those of the apostles,
as together they awaited the coming of your Spirit,
and thus she became the perfect pattern of the Church at prayer.

Raised to the glory of heaven,
she cares for the pilgrim Church with a mother's love,
following its progress homeward
until the Day of the Lord dawns in splendour.

Now, with all the angels and saints,
we praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY III

Mary as model and Mother of the Church

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF APOSTLES I

The apostles are shepherds of God's people

This preface is used in Masses of the apostles, especially of Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You are the eternal Shepherd
and never leave your flock untended.
Through the apostles
you watch over us and protect us always.
Those once chosen to be vicars of your Son
guide us still from their place in heaven.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF APOSTLES II

Apostolic foundation and witness

This preface is used in Masses of the apostles and evangelists.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You founded your Church on the apostles
to stand firm for ever
as the sign on earth of your infinite holiness
and as a living witness to all
of the way that leads to heaven.

And so, with steadfast love,
we proclaim your glory,
joining the hosts of angels
in their triumphant chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF MARTYRS

The sign and example of a martyrdom

This preface is used in Masses on solemnities and feasts of martyrs and may also be used on their memorials.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

Your holy martyr N. followed the example of Christ,
and shed his/her blood for the glory of your name.

His/her death reveals your power
shining through our human frailty.

You choose the weak and make them strong
in bearing witness to you
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF PASTORS

The presence of pastors in the Church

This preface is used in Masses on solemnities and feasts of pastors and may also be used on their memorials.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You give the Church this celebration
in honour of Saint N.

You inspire us by his holy life,
instruct us by his preaching,
and give us your protection in answer to his prayers.

And so we join the throng of saints and angels
as they sing the unending hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF OTHER SAINTS: VIRGINS AND RELIGIOUS

The sign of a life consecrated to God

This preface is used in Masses on solemnities and feasts of virgins and religious and may also be used on their memorials.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

We honour you in your saints,
who have consecrated their lives to Christ
for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

What love you show us, Lord,
as you call the human race back to its first holiness,
and invite us to taste on earth
the gifts of the world to come.

Now, with all the angels and saints,
we praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF OTHER SAINTS: HOLY MEN AND WOMEN I

The glory of the saints

This preface is used in Masses of all saints, patrons, and titulars of churches and on the solemnities and feasts of saints which have no Preface of their own. It may also be used on the memorials of saints.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

Your glory is told in the assembly of the saints,
and, in crowning their merits, you crown your own gifts.

In their lives on earth
you give us an example.

In our communion with them
you give us their friendship.

In their prayer for the Church
you give us strength and protection.

This great cloud of witnesses spurs us on
to run the course that is set before us
and win with them the unfading crown of glory
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And so, with angels and archangels
and the whole company of saints,
we sing the unending hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF OTHER SAINTS: HOLY MEN AND WOMEN II

The activity of the saints

This preface is used in Masses of all saints, patrons, and titulars of churches and on the solemnities and feasts of saints which have no Preface of their own. It may also be used on the memorials of saints.

The Lord be with you.
— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You renew the Church in every age
by raising up men and women outstanding in holiness,
living witnesses of your unchanging love.
They inspire us by their heroic lives,
and help us by their constant prayers
to work for the coming of your kingdom.

And so we join the angels and saints
in the joyous hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE FIRST SCRUTINY

(THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT)

The faith of the woman of Samaria

This preface is used in Masses when the First Scrutiny is celebrated.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When he asked the woman of Samaria for water to drink,
Jesus had already bestowed on her the gift of faith.
He thirsted for her faith,
that he might inflame her heart with the fire of divine love.

Together with the angels
we glorify your mighty deeds
and join in their chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE SECOND SCRUTINY

(FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT)

The man born blind

This preface is used in Masses when the Second Scrutiny is celebrated.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By the mystery of his incarnation
he has led the human race out of darkness
into the clear light of faith.
Through the fall of Adam we were born the slaves of sin,
but through the waters of baptism
Christ has raised us to new life as your adopted children.

And, therefore, earth unites with heaven
to sing a new song of praise;
we too join with the hosts of angels
as they proclaim your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE THIRD SCRUTINY

(FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT)

The raising of Lazarus

This preface is used in Masses when the Third Scrutiny is celebrated.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As a human being,
he wept for Lazarus, his friend;
as eternal God,
he called him forth from the tomb.
In his compassion for the human family,
Christ leads us by the Easter mysteries
from death to new life.

Through him the hosts of angels adore you
and rejoice in your presence for ever.
May our voices join with theirs
in the triumphant chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

God fashions us in the likeness of Christ

This preface is used when sacraments of initiation are celebrated within Mass, and the Ritual Mass, when permitted, is also used.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

Through the preaching of the gospel
you form a community of faith
which you bring to life-giving waters,
seal with the gift of your Spirit,
and welcome to the table of the Lord.
By these mysteries you fashion us
in the likeness of Christ
and make us one in him:
one in the faith we profess
and one in our witness to the world.

With joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Christ the healer

This preface is used when the anointing of the sick is celebrated within Mass, and the Ritual Mass, when permitted, is also used.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
for you have revealed to us
in Christ the healer
your unfailing power and steadfast compassion.

In the splendour of his rising
your Son conquered suffering and death
and bequeathed to us his promise
of a new and glorious world,
where no bodily pain will afflict us
and no anguish of spirit.

Through your gift of the Spirit,
you bless us, even now,
with comfort and healing,
strength and hope,
forgiveness and peace.

In this supreme sacrament of your love
you give us the risen body of your Son:
a pattern of what we shall become
when he returns again at the end of time.

And so we join the angels and saints
in the joyous hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Christ the healer

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF MARRIAGE I

The dignity of the marriage covenant

This preface is used when marriage is celebrated within Mass, and the Ritual Mass, when permitted, is also used.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

In the covenant of marriage
you draw man and woman together
in a life-long bond of harmony and peace,
so that their chaste and fruitful love
may bring forth children you adopt as your own.

For by your providence and grace
you carry out this wonderful design:
the birth of children brings beauty to the world
and their rebirth in baptism enriches the Church.

Through Christ the choirs of angels
and all the saints proclaim your glory.
May our voices join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF MARRIAGE II

The great sacrament of marriage

This preface is used when marriage is celebrated within Mass, and the Ritual Mass, when permitted, is also used.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You have forged in him a new covenant with your people,
redeeming us by his death and resurrection
and making us partakers of the divine nature
and joint heirs with him to eternal glory.
In the love that binds husband and wife
you have given us a sacrament
that speaks of Christ's outpouring of grace
and calls to mind the wonderful plan of your love.

And so, with the angels and all the saints in heaven,
we proclaim your glory
and sing the unending hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF MARRIAGE III

Marriage, a sign of God's love

This preface is used when marriage is celebrated within Mass, and the Ritual Mass, when permitted, is also used.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You created man and woman out of love
and raised them to such a dignity
that in the union of husband and wife
you show us a true image of your love:
love is our origin,
love our constant calling,
love our fulfilment in heaven.
Thus, the sacrament of marriage,
an abiding sign of your own love,
consecrates the love between husband and wife.

Through Christ the choirs of angels
and all the saints proclaim your glory.
May our voices join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF ORDINATION OF BISHOPS AND PRESBYTERS

(CHRISM MASS I)

The priesthood of Christ and the ministry of priests

This preface is used at Masses when bishops or presbyters are ordained, and the Ritual Mass, when permitted, is also used.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

By the anointing of the Holy Spirit
you made your only-begotten Son
High Priest of the new and eternal covenant,
and with heavenly wisdom ordained
that his one priesthood should continue in the Church.

Christ accords the dignity of a royal priesthood
to the people he has made his own.
Some of these he chooses with a brother's care
to share his sacred ministry by the laying on of hands.

He appoints them to renew in his name
the sacrifice of our redemption
and to set before your family the paschal meal.
He calls them to lead your holy people in love,
nourish them with your word,
and strengthen them through the sacraments.

They are to offer their lives to your service
and for the salvation of all,
as they strive to grow in the likeness of Christ
and to honour you
by their courageous witness of faith and love.

And so we join the angels and saints
in the joyous hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF ORDINATION OF BISHOPS AND PRESBYTERS

The priesthood of Christ and the ministry of priests

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF ORDINATION OF DEACONS

Christ, source of every ministry in the Church

This preface is used at Masses when deacons are ordained or when deacons and presbyters are ordained in the same celebration, and the Ritual Mass, when permitted, is also used.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

By the anointing of the Holy Spirit
you made your only-begotten Son
High Priest of the new and eternal covenant,
and with heavenly wisdom ordained
that many ministries should be carried out within the Church.

Christ accords the dignity of a royal priesthood
to the people he has made his own.
Some of these he chooses with a brother's care
to share his sacred ministry by the laying on of hands.

He calls them to lead your holy people in love,
nourish them with your word,
and strengthen them through the sacraments.

They are to offer their lives to your service
and for the salvation of all,
as they strive to grow in the likeness of Christ
and to honour you
by their courageous witness of faith and love.

And so we join the angels and saints
in the joyous hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF ORDINATION OF DEACONS

Christ, source of every ministry in the Church

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF MINISTRY

Christ came as one who serves

This preface is used at Masses when readers or acolytes are instituted, or when other ministers are blessed, and the Ritual Mass, when permitted, is also used. It may also be used when bishops, presbyters, or deacons are ordained, and on other appropriate occasions.

The Lord be with you.
— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through your servant Jesus Christ our Lord.

Revealed at his baptism as your beloved Son,
he came among us as one who serves,
and taught that they are greatest in the kingdom
who make themselves least and the servants of all.
Though Teacher and Lord,
he washed the feet of his disciples,
commanding us to do the same.

You bestow upon your people
a rich variety of gifts and ministries,
that we may serve the world your Son redeemed
and build up his body, the Church,
to the greater glory of your name.

With joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

Religious life, serving God by imitating Christ

This preface is used in Masses of religious profession or on the anniversary of profession, and the Ritual Mass, when permitted, is also used.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Born without sin, the son of the Virgin Mother,
he called those blessed who were pure of heart
and taught by his way of life the excellence of chastity.
He chose to do always what is pleasing to you,
and for our sake became obedient even unto death,
offering himself to you as a perfect sacrifice.
He consecrated more closely to your service
those who leave all things for your sake,
and promised them a treasure in heaven.

And so we join the throng of saints and angels
as they sing the unending hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH I

The mystery of God's temple

This preface is an integral part of the rite of the dedication of a church and is used with Eucharistic Prayer I or III in the Mass of dedication.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise,
Father most holy.

The whole world is your temple,
shaped to resound with your name.
Yet you also allow us to dedicate to your service
places designed for your worship.
With hearts full of joy
we consecrate to your glory
this work of our hands, this house of prayer.

Here is foreshadowed the mystery of your true temple,
here an earthly image of your heavenly city.
For you made the body of your Son,
born of the Virgin,
a temple consecrated to your glory,
the dwelling place of the Godhead in all its fullness.

You have established the Church as a holy city,
founded on the apostles,
with Jesus Christ its cornerstone.
You continue to build your Church with chosen stones,
made living by the Spirit
and cemented together by love.
In that holy city you will be all in all for endless ages,
and Christ will be its everlasting light.

Now, with all the angels and saints,
we proclaim your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH I

The mystery of God's temple

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH II

The mystery of God's temple, which is the Church

This preface is used in Masses on the anniversary of the dedication of a church when the celebration takes place within the dedicated church.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You have allowed our human hands to build an earthly dwelling
where you never refuse to show your people favour
on their pilgrimage to you.
Here in sacramental signs
you manifest and accomplish
the mystery of your dwelling among us.
Here you shape us as your holy temple
and build up the whole Church,
which is the very body of Christ.
Thus you bring closer to fulfilment
the heavenly city Jerusalem,
the vision of your peace.

And so, with all the angels and saints,
we bless you in the temple of your glory
and join in their chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH III

The mystery of the Church, the Bride of Christ and the temple of the Spirit

This preface is used in Masses on the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome (9 November). It is also used in other Masses celebrating the anniversary of the dedication of a church when the celebration takes place outside the dedicated church.

The Lord be with you.
— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You are pleased to dwell in every house of prayer,
that, by the constant working of your grace,
you may build us up as the temple of the Holy Spirit,
resplendent with life and holiness.

Every house of prayer
is a sign also of the Church on earth.
Day by day you make it holy,
preparing it for heavenly glory
as the spotless Bride of Christ
and the joyful Mother of a great company of saints.

Now, with all the angels and saints,
we praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE DEDICATION OF AN ALTAR

The table of Christ's sacrifice and banquet

This preface is an integral part of the rite of the dedication of an altar and is used with Eucharistic Prayer I or III in the Mass of dedication.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

True priest and true victim,
he offered himself to you
on the altar of the cross,
and commanded us to celebrate
the memorial of that sacrifice
until he comes again.
Therefore your people have built this altar
and dedicate it to your name
with grateful hearts.

This is a truly sacred place:
here the sacrifice of Christ is offered in mystery,
perfect praise is given to you,
and our redemption made continually present.

Here is prepared the Lord's table,
at which your children,
nourished by the body of Christ,
are gathered into the one holy Church.

Here your people drink of the Spirit,
from the stream of living water
flowing from the rock of Christ.
They will become in him
a worthy offering and a living altar.

Now, with all the angels and saints,
we proclaim your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF THE DEDICATION OF AN ALTAR

The table of Christ's sacrifice and banquet

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF THE UNITY OF CHRISTIANS

The unity of Christ's body, the Church

This preface is used in Masses for the unity of Christians.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ you brought us to the knowledge of your truth,
that we might become his body,
bound together by one faith and one baptism.

Through Christ you have given your Holy Spirit to all peoples.
How wonderful are the works of the Spirit,
revealed in such varied gifts!

Yet how marvellous the unity which the Spirit creates,
dwelling in the hearts of your adopted children,
filling the whole Church and guiding it with wisdom
_from above.

And so we join the multitude of angels
in their joyful chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF CHRISTIAN DEATH I

Our hope of rising in Christ

This preface is used in Masses for the Dead and on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (2 November).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In him, who rose from the dead,
our hope of resurrection dawned.
The sadness of certain death
gives way to the bright promise of immortality.

Lord, for your faithful people
life is changed, not ended.
When the body of our earthly dwelling is laid aside,
we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF CHRISTIAN DEATH II

Christ died, that all might live

This preface is used in Masses for the Dead and on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (2 November).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus accepted death on the cross
to save us all from dying;
one man chose to die,
that all might live eternally in you.

And so we join the multitude of angels
in their joyful chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF CHRISTIAN DEATH III

Christ, our life and resurrection

This preface is used in Masses for the Dead and on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (2 November).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He is the salvation of the world,
the life of the living,
and the resurrection of the dead.

Through him the hosts of angels adore you
and rejoice in your presence for ever.

May our voices join with theirs
in the triumphant chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF CHRISTIAN DEATH IV

From earthly life to heavenly glory

This preface is used in Masses for the Dead and on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (2 November).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

Your providence brings us to birth;
your governance rules our lives;
made subject to the law of sin,
we return by your command
to the dust from which we came.
Yet by your merciful touch
we have been saved through the death of your Son
and are raised to the glory of his resurrection.

And so we join the throng of saints and angels
as they sing the unending hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

PREFACE OF CHRISTIAN DEATH V

Our resurrection through Christ's victory

This preface is used in Masses for the Dead and on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (2 November).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

We had deserved to perish because of our sins,
but through your loving-kindness
when we die we are called back to life with Christ,
whose victory is our redemption.

With joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

 *Musical Setting of Preface*

