

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

For we have sinned against you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

And grant us your salvation.

May almighty God have mercy on us... Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.



**OPENING PRAYER**

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, .....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16: 1.6-7.10-13**

*A reading from the first book of Samuel*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him, 'but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22**

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.



[R]

2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort

[R]

3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. [R]

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. [R]

**SECOND READING Ephesians 5: 8-14**

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians*  
You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

**GOSPEL John 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38 (Shorter Form Only)**

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

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born! And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

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



# focus on sunday

Without faith we are blind to the ways of God. With the light of faith we can see the path Jesus laid down for us so that we may follow him and enjoy the glory of the resurrection when our time comes.



**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

*All bow for following two lines:*

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died and was buried;**

**he descended into hell;**

**on the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of God**

**the Father almighty;**

**from there he will come to judge**

**the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy**

**catholic Church, the communion of**

**saints, the forgiveness of sins, the**

**resurrection of the body,**

**and life everlasting. Amen**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Pray brothers and sisters, .....*

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

*The mystery of faith.*

**Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

*Behold the Lamb of God, .....*

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.**

**PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. Through Christ our Lord.

**CONCLUDING RITE**

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.



**A Kindly Face and a Smile**

All I did was let a roar – Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me.

They had told me he had healed people – but only sometimes.

He looked my way – they told me. Of course, I didn't know that then. I wondered would he heal me, and I might see – again.

It was great when I could see – a good while ago.

There was a moment when he came towards me –

they told me, and I could sense it.

A blind man can often sense a man of peace and goodness near him.

What might he do?

A gentle touch of the eyes but nothing happened.

At least I saw nothing, but I got an uplift in the heart.

Strange - I felt totally forgiven, totally accepted.

That would have been enough!

Even if I never saw anything again, I would be grateful I met him.

For what he gave to me in one short moment.

He took his hand away, and I raised my eyes.

I could see – I saw him then, a kindly face and a smile.

This was the first thing I saw, and even though I would see the world again, it was the best thing I saw when my blindness was cured.

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